**De Montfort University**

**Module template proforma**

**Basic module information**

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| Module Title: | Project/Dissertation | | | | | |
| Module Code: | IMAT5314 | | Credit Value: | 60.00 | DMU Credit Level: | 5 |
| Owning Board: | IMAT | | | | | |
| Faculty: | Faculty of Technology | | | | | |
| Academic Period: | 2018 | | | | | |
| Module Leader: | Martin Kenneth Stacey | | | | | |
| Module Pre-requisites: | To become eligible to start the dissertation or major project a student is required to gain at least 60 credits from preceding modules. | | | | | |
| Maximum student numbers on module (if applicable): | |  | | | | |
| Term/Semester in which the module can run: | | Semester 1; Semester 2; Semester X; Semester SX (Spanning from Prev Year) | | | | |
| Version Number: | | 23 | | | | |

**Module description** (including outline content)

The aim of the project/dissertation (PD) is to provide students with the opportunity to carry out a self-managed in-depth study involving design, fact finding, analysis, synthesis and integration of complex ideas which are sometimes based on incomplete and contradictory data or requirements. The PD is likely to demonstrate the application of skills acquired from the taught course to the solution to a particular problem or research topic.

Normally the PD is a self-contained piece of work of considerably greater depth than can be accommodated within a taught module and may reflect and build on the entire breadth of material studied by the student.

While there are a range of types of PD, there are no rigid distinctions between them, as the scope and importance of literature analysis, primary reseach, and system development can be tailored to fit the needs and interests of individual students and topics. Development projects, research projects and literaturer study projects are the most common types:

1. Development Project: In a development project, the student is normally expected to produce a working piece of software that serves a particular purpose, meeting a defined set of requirements. In some cases, the product may include self-designed and purpose-built hardware as well as software, for instance an innovative robotic system. The running system itself is normally the major deliverable, and is normally the most important factor in the assessment. However, the requirements analysis, the system design work, and the testing and evaluation of the software - and how they are documented and presented - are also important to the assessment of development projects. The development work should be set in the context of the questions that it should help answer and how it contributes to answering them.

2. Research Project: Research projects normally involve the design and implementation of original empirical research. Students are normally expected to create a research proposal and plan, identify research questions, undertake a literature review, review, select and evaluate data collection and data analysis methods, design and implement empirical research, analyse data and report research outcomes. All research projects are required to be undertaken within, and contribute to, a theoretical framework.

3. Literature Study Project: A project may consist of a literature review alone when it is extensive, strategically significant, rigorously defined and implemented, and includes well-thought-out recommendations and implications. This requires the student to produce a novel and creative analysis that attempts to answer one or more unanswered (or perhaps wrongly answered) research questions. The student is expected to produce a report describing and critically evaluating existing documents and other sources of information, setting them in the context of a clear conceptual framework, and presenting a cogent analysis.

4. Consultancy Project: In a consultancy project, the student is normally expected to produce a consultancy-style report to meet a clearly defined need for a clearly defined client or audience, providing a detailed and sophisticated critical evaluation of existing techniques, approaches or systems, or how to solve a practical problem, with recommendations. The practical consultancy work should be set in the context of how the work can answer more general and scholarly questions.

5. Data Analysis Project: In a data analysis project, the student is expected to evaluate, select and apply computational techniques for data analysis and knowledge extraction, to solve a novel data analysis or knowledge extraction problem, or develop a novel technique for solving a particular data analysis problem, or develop a novel technique for presenting data or statistical information to support a particular human activity. The student is expected to demonstrate and illustrate the application of the technique and evaluate how well it solves the problem.

6. Conceptual Analysis Project: In a conceptual analysis project, the student is expected to develop an analysis on paper of a system or of how to solve a problem. Such projects might involve developing an analysis of a working software system by applying one or more analytical techniques, for example for producing a usability evaluation; or analysing or modelling a process; or producing a notation or technique for describing a particular sort of information that a software system might generate or use; or devising a procedure for tackling a particular class of problem in software development. The student is expected to demonstrate and illustrate the application of the technique and evaluate how well it solves the problem.

Indicative Content:

All students will have access to:

An introduction to the PD skills required for a one-person project and present the results in the most favourable way.

Opportunities for the identification of additional learning that may be needed to fulfil the PD requirements and to then apply that learning to the PD task(s).

Opportunities to learn about and to address risk management, legal and ethical issues in their PD.

A self-study research methods (RM) programme for those needing a refresher in all RMs or those wishing to explore one particular RM not previously studied.

**Learning outcomes**

1 Demonstrate abilities to analyse a given context, using appropriate methodological approaches, and to justify decisions taken.

2 To develop and present in writen and oral forms a comprehensive solution, which addresses the defined context, in a rigorous and relevant manner.

3 To critically evaluate the relative success of their work

4 To design, implement and evaluate research and it's outcomes, paying due regard to research methods, procedures and theory.

**Assessment**

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| Type of Assessment: Project 1 Learning Outome: 1,2,3,4, Final Assessment Y/N:  Weighting: 100% Threshold: 50% Essential: Yes Duration: Volume:  Description: This is the final written submission for the PD.  Depending on the particular nature of the PD its structure and format will vary.  The deliverables to be produced for assessment are negotiable according to the topic and the needs and preferences of the particular student as well as the supervisors. However, all projects need to include a report or dissertation, and a viva. The deliverables for a development project will include the system itself. |

**Assessment notes**

Grading levels will reflect the standard University grading as set out in the DMU taught PG regulations.

The mark given will be the mark that the assessors think the work as a whole is worth. There are no explicit weightings for different components of the work, and the priorities given to different aspects can be tailored to what is appropriate for the individual project. However, the assessors must assess the quality of the following key aspects of the project: the problem framing; the quality of the literature review and fact finding; the primary research and development; the critical evaluation; the report and documentation. In order for a project to achieve a particular grade (pass, merit, distinction) all of these should achieve an acceptable minimum standard corresponding to one grade below that (i.e. merit standard for a distinction project, pass standard for a merit project, below pass (but not terrible) for a pass project).

The following headings will normally be used as a framework for assessment:

· Problem framing - understanding of problem & requirements

· Quality of research fact-finding and analysis

· Primary research and development

· Critical evaluation of project deliverables and project process

· Report

· Documentation

· Oral Presentation/Demonstration & Viva

· Project management

· General Comments

The student is expected to critically appraise their work throughout the PD and to provide evidence of that appraisal in the final PD submission.

The viva (and demonstration if applicable) is a must pass element of the assessment and students must demonstrate mastery and ownership of the PD process and outcomes. Students who fail to demonstrate ownership of the project at a viva, and thereby fail the viva, will be awarded a zero for the project overall.

If a resit is approved by the assessment board then the form of reassessment will be determined by the board or its nominated representative.

**Reassessment**

Reassessment will be by failed component.

NOTE - For marginal failures, it may be agreed that the student can rework parts of the project in order to achieve a pass, capped at the pass mark of 50%, otherwise, an entirely new project must be undertaken.

**Expected methods of delivery**

This a self-managed piece of work, with regular meetings with the Project Management Panel (PMP), who will offer advice, direction and support. The PMP will assess the student's performance at two formative progress points - these do not form part of the summative assessment.

Module may be delivered by distance learning.