

EAS Assignment Brief



EE4110 MSc Dissertation	Literature Review;
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Prof Sergey Turitsyn	
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Assignment Brief/ Coursework Content:

The literature review *draft* and a project plan should be submitted by the project week 8 (approximately at the end of April). It should be a state of the art review of the field of study, including current developments, controversies and breakthroughs, previous research and relevant background theory. It should provide evidence that the student has gained enough background knowledge of the subject areas relevant to their project to be able to continue to the next phase which is the implementation.

This should be submitted via Blackboard for a Turnitin originality report. Students will receive formative feedback via the Blackboard from their main academic supervisor, approximately one month after their submission of the document. The deadline will be published via the Assessment Feedback link on the Blackboard at the start of term.

The *final* version of the literature review is submitted as a section of the project dissertation at the end of the project summative assessment. The literature review will typically be less than 5K words.

Descriptive details of Assignment:

Details are found in "Project Dissertation Handbook"

Recommended reading/ online sources:

Details are found in "Project Dissertation Handbook"

Key Dates:

30/04/2021	Submission Deadline of the literature review draft
21/05/2021	Expected feedback and return date

Submission Details:

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Online on Blackboard

What needs to be included in a review of the literature:

- The key issues which underlie the research project.
- The major findings on the research topic, by whom and when.
- The main points of view and controversies that surround the issue being investigated.

- A critical evaluation of these views, indicating the strengths and weaknesses of previous studies on the topic.
- General conclusions about the state of the art at the time of writing, including what research still needs to be done; that is, the gap that remains in the research that the study will aim to fill

What needs to be included in the work plan :

- Background for the project and what problems this project is trying to solve and the chosen methodology
- Project objectives and expected outcomes. They must be SMART and should be broken into "primary objectives", which you guarantee to achieve and 'extensions' which will only be implemented if time allows. The primary objectives should be clearly specified.
- Work Plan provided in the form of a Gantt chart or other suitable diagrams identifying the tasks to be completed and the schedule for completing those tasks within the published deadlines.
- Technical risk identification and contingency plans for mitigation, e.g. what happens if a problem is harder than expected. The student's ability is not part of the technical risk. Health and Safety Risk Assessments in case there are any project-specific health and safety concerns. A risk assessment must be included in the plan even if there are no specific risks identified. (See Appendix A: Risk Assessment in the project handbook).

Marking Rubric:

	Fail :
	There is little or no evidence of investigation and critical thought, there are serious flaws in the presentation and/or referencing. The project plan is missing or inappropriate. The work is fragmentary or ineffective.
	There is some evidence of investigation and critical thought, but the presentation is not appropriate, possibly badly structured, mostly descriptive, the scope of the project is limited. There are flaws in the referencing. Some components of the project plan are present but the plan is superficial, not complete. There is evidence of relevant knowledge and skills but deployed on such a limited scale or in such an ineffective manner that the threshold standard for the project investigation module has not been achieved.
	Pass :
	There is evidence of an investigative element, but the outcome is presented in a mainly descriptive and/or unstructured manner with little indication of critical thought, and/or is excessively limited in scope, having regard to the project topic. The components of the project plan are all present but are superficial or brief. Note that work without any critical thought or with inadequate referencing will normally be given a mark below 50%.

	<p>Related practical and/or academic work is reviewed, with some evidence of systematic and/or critical thought, with relevant references cited. The business context and processes of any client are set out in sufficient depth to motivate the work in general and a range of specific objectives. Any experimental objectives of the work are stated with suitable motivation. The potential benefits and the main problems to be addressed have been identified.</p> <p>The project work is placed in context, but the project plan needs major modification, either because it is over-ambitious, not challenging enough or lacking in detail may indicate that the student does not have a sufficient understanding of the project topic, and hence the mark assigned will normally be in this range.</p>
	Merit :
	<p>There is substantial evidence of systematic investigation and critical thought, whether in reviewing previous work or in pursuing business analysis or in motivating subsequent work, as applicable. How the investigative work relates to and influences subsequent work is clearly established. The potential benefits and the main problems to be addressed have been discussed. The schedule given in the project plan is achievable within the time scale without major modification.</p>
	Distinction :
	<p>There is evidence of both thoroughness (e.g. in attention to detail and scope) and depth of insight into the problems raised by the work and the range of objectives that the work should pursue. The project plan is well thought through and justified.</p>
	<p>Most of the accessible, recent and substantial precursor work is formally cited and critically reviewed. Business analysis (where relevant) shows a detailed understanding of a client's business and the related wider business environment, with the project work placed in the context of the critical review of existing processes, preferably coupled with suggestions for process improvement or new techniques. The project plan is of professional standard</p>
	<p>There are some original insights that augment the motivation for the present work. The standard of writing is similar to the literature review in an academic publication. The work will clearly be at the forefront of current knowledge and/or professional practice.</p>

