

# MSc Data Analytics Dissertation 2021/22

## Thesis Template Guidelines

This document outlines the recommended thesis structure and formatting.

## 1 Structure

Your project report should include the following components, in the order shown:

- Title page should include Title, year, author, copyright notice, supervisor name, Institute name, Institute logo, School and Department information)
- Acknowledgements
- Declaration  
The declaration page should contain the following:  
**I hereby declare that the work described in this project is, except where otherwise stated, entirely my own work and has not been submitted as part of any degree at this or any other Institute/University.**  
You must write your name, sign and indicate the date of declaration.
- Abstract
- Abbreviations
- Table of Contents
- List of Tables
- List of Figures

The following chapter names are for your guidance. The names, number of chapters and their description may vary depending on the project and writing flow of your thesis.

- Introduction/ Background - This will be your first chapter
- Literature Review
- Data and Methods
- Results and Discussion
- Conclusion and Future Work - This will be your last chapter
- Appendices
- Source Code Listings, project plans, ethical documents etc.
- References/Bibliography

## 2 Formatting

### 2.1 Styles

- Use your word-processor's Style Templates facility to simplify the management of text formatting.
- For Latex, you can use the template at the link below after changing the basic structure and formatting given in this document:

<https://www.overleaf.com/latex/templates/ucd-postgrad-thesis-template/qsdgxywkrp>

## 2.2 Font

Use a clear 11 or 12-point font that is easy to read. For example, Arial 11pt or Times New Roman 12pt, but not comic, script or other informal fonts.

## 2.3 Spacing

- Use 1.5 line spacing throughout and avoid broad open spaces or cramped layouts. For Latex, you can use the command `\onehalfspacing`.
- Use text justification.

## 2.4 Margins

Left and right margins must be 1.25".

## 2.5 Headings

- Use an appropriately graded range of font sizes for headings.
- Example: Chapter Heading 18pt bold, level-1 sub-headings 16pt bold, level-2 sub-heading 14pt bold, level-3 sub-heading 12pt bold. (This will depend on the number of sub-headings you wish to use).

## 2.6 Figures

- All diagrams, pictures and illustrations must be labelled with a figure number followed by a description of the figure.
- Example: Figure 1: Wireless Network Architecture
- These figures will appear in the List of Figures at the beginning of your project.

## 2.7 Quotations

Direct quotations from a source should appear in italics and should be surrounded by double quotes and followed by an appropriate citation.

## 2.8 Headers and Footers

- In the header, the title of the project should appear on the left, the chapter number and chapter title should appear on the right. These may be formatted using a smaller font (e.g. 10pt italic).
- In the footer, the page number must be centred on the page.

## 2.9 Citations and References

Use Dundalk IT Harvard Style and ensure consistent application throughout your document.