COMP3030J – Stage 3 Software Engineering Project Guidelines

- The emphasis of this module is on teamwork and the development of soft-skills.
- This is a challenging situation, but this project can be used as a way to reduce student isolation and encouraging communication and collaboration. This will hopefully have benefits beyond the development of software development skills.
- There will be 16 groups – class ranked by GPA, allocated in rotation so that each group has roughly on average the same total GPA.
- A forum has been created on Moodle for each group. Please join your group.
- A Problem-based learning (PBL) problem be issued in Week 1 to all students.
- Slides/notes/guidance will be released on Moodle weekly (Sunday)
- There will be a "live" WeChat session with your TAs on Mondays between 9.55-11.30 am Beijing time (this is the student's timetabled slot for COMP3030J). This will be organised with your TAs and will most likely be done individually with each group.
- Every Monday by midnight each group will submit their "Weekly Update" to their group forum on Moodle. There is a template for this on Moodle.
- The "Weekly Update" will cover the work that the group has done on their project in the previous week and the plan for the following week. This will be reviewed by Dr. Brett and Dr. Catherine and feedback will be given to each group on their progress.
- Any questions that the TAs can't answer will be addressed by Dr. Brett and Dr. Catherine on the Moodle forum.
- Each group can use whatever language (or languages) that they think is most appropriate for their project.

- **Environment**:
    o Overleaf – Report will be written in collaboration using Overleaf (one document per group, set up by Dr. Catherine. Students must use UCDconnect email addresses so that they can be identified)
    o Github – Work must be shared in Github (again, students must use UCDconnect name format so that we can identify them i.e. givenname.familyname). One Github project per group. Dr. Brett and Dr. Catherine will help you set this up.
    o We have set up one general WeChat forum and one Moodle forum per group. Please make sure that you are a member of the WeChat class chat and that you have joined your group forum on Moodle. This is where you can raise any issues and ask questions of the lecturers (Moodle) and other teams/TAs (WeChat).

- **Assessment**: module is 100% Continuous Assessment (CA) (Due dates to be confirmed)
    o There will be no individual grades – we will presume that all group members have contributed equally, unless flagged early in semester (see conflict resolution below).
    o Overleaf report (25%) – template provided. Each student will have a dedicated section to be authored exclusively by them, detailing their part of the project.
    o Presentation video (25%) – each student 4 minutes (strict) i.e. if there are 5 group members the video should be 20 mins. The video should provide a coherent overview of the project in total demonstrating how the software has met the project requirements.
    o Teamwork (25%) – observation of individual contributions of members through Github/GitLab and Overleaf, contribution to the forum and direct feedback from students if there is an issue. TA reports may also be used.

- o Software testing (25%) – we will test the software developed
    - Must be a web-based solution, fully accessible from Dublin, fully functional, with no software required.
    - There is no need to get a domain name (e.g. www.whatever.com). All you need is access to a free web hosting/cloud service like Tencent, Baidu Cloud, etc. The URL can be the IP address.
    - Students will provide FULL instructions to access and navigate the solution minding that we may be in Ireland. Instructions to be provided in report.
- **Teamwork and conflict resolution:**
    - o Soft skills and teamwork are essential skills for Software Engineers
    - o Conflict is a normal part of life, it is how this is resolved that is important
    - o If conflict arises in the group it must be dealt with quickly and fairly
    - o We have a list of escalating steps that must be used to address any group issues. Students must demonstrate that they have tried all of them if any member is to get a lower grade and if the other members are to get the full teamwork grade
    - o Only if students have followed all of the guidelines, and still have not resolved the teamwork issues will the grade of the group be broken down into individual components for each team member. However, this is to be seen as a last resort
    - o Any teamwork issues must be flagged early (by Week 4). There will be additional check-ins in Week 6, Week 9 and Week 12. All issues should be addressed at that point (Week 12), for better or worse
    - o Being able to problem solve and work in a group/remotely is a highly sought after skill by employers
    - o We understand that this is a very challenging experience, however, this is a great opportunity for learning. A lot of software development is done remotely and software development teams may be geographically distributed. Just look at the big tech companies!
- Unfortunately, no changes to grades will take place after the grades have been released. This is to encourage you to disclosure of any team issues early on in the semester. Of course, the formal UCD appeals process is available.
- As this module is continuously graded we will be watching how the you interact on the forums, use Github, and Overleaf, etc. Our observations over the entire semester will contribute to the final grade. This is why the group work grade is such a big component of this module.