COMP3851A – Computing and Information Systems Work Integrated Learning

**Assessment 2**

Progress Report

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# **1. Project title:** "Newcastle Nexus: Empowering Freshmen with an Interactive Orientation Hub for Seamless University Integration."

# 2. Research Background: (1,000 words)

The project at hand is tailored specifically for students affiliated with the University of Newcastle (UON) which is based in Singapore, catering to both local and international students. The endeavor seeks to address the unique challenges and requirements faced by this diverse student body, ensuring that their academic journey is supported and enhanced through innovative technological solutions.

The project is all about understanding the tough transition students face when starting their university journey. Embarking on the journey of university life brings a whirlwind of challenges. From adapting to the unfamiliar academic landscape to figuring out the ropes of campus living, it's a lot to take in. For international students, these challenges can feel even more daunting. They're not only dealing with their coursework but also navigating through language barriers, cultural contrasts, and the practicalities of settling in a foreign land.

Motivation for the project stems from the desire to mitigate these challenges and facilitate a smoother transition for students entering UON in Singapore. By providing a comprehensive orientation website, the project aims to consolidate essential information and resources in one accessible platform. This helps students feel more confident and equipped to handle their academic journey, while also creating a stronger sense of community among UON students.

In exploring the background area of the project, it is imperative to consider the existing landscape of orientation programs and support mechanisms available to university students. While many institutions offer orientation sessions and resources to facilitate student integration, the effectiveness and accessibility of these initiatives may vary. Furthermore, the evolving nature of technology and digital platforms presents an opportunity to innovate and enhance the delivery of orientation services.

Existing software and technologies in the realm of student orientation predominantly comprise traditional methods such as printed materials, face-to-face sessions, and static online resources. While these mediums serve a purpose, they may fall short in addressing the dynamic and diverse needs of modern-day students. This highlights the importance of adopting a more interactive and user-focused approach that utilizes technology to provide tailored and enjoyable orientation experiences.

Key gaps in available features revolve around the accessibility, comprehensiveness, and interactivity of existing orientation resources. Conventional orientation materials often lack flexibility, which can pose challenges in catering to the diverse learning styles and preferences of students. This however might not fit everyone as it would not be suitable. Plus, printed materials and outdated online platforms often fall short in providing comprehensive information and engaging experiences because they're static and can't adjust to individual needs.

The proposed orientation website aims to bridge these gaps by offering a dynamic and multimedia-rich platform that caters to the varying needs and preferences of UON students in Singapore. By harnessing the power of technology, the project seeks to provide a holistic orientation experience that encompasses essential information, interactive features, and personalized support mechanisms. This ensures that freshman students will not feel lost and uneasy in a new environment.

In conclusion, the project represents a proactive and innovative response to the evolving needs and expectations of UON students in Singapore. By leveraging technology and drawing upon insights from the literature, the project aims to redefine the orientation experience, empowering students to thrive academically, socially, and personally during their time at UON. Through collaboration with stakeholders and continuous iteration based on user feedback, the project endeavors to set a new standard for student orientation in the digital age.

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# **3. Aims:** (250 words)

This project aims to create a user-friendly orientation website for incoming new students at the University of Newcastle. Recognizing that new students might feel confused and find it hard to adjust to university. This orientation website is designed to provide comprehensive support and information to facilitate their transition into university life. Completed objectives include the development of an accessible and intuitive website interface. Moving forward, the project seeks to provide detailed information on university student life, including tips on managing study stress and balancing responsibilities when living independently for the first time. Additionally, the website will offer accommodation details, highlighting both affordable options and convenient locations. It will also feature information on essential academic resources such as the school library, study rooms, discussion rooms, labs, and printers. A clear registration guide will be provided to help students enroll in courses and make payments seamlessly. The website will include a transportation guide, indicating the nearest MRT and bus stations from the school, which is particularly helpful for newcomers to Singapore who may be unfamiliar with the area. Moreover, students will find information about various student clubs and activities aimed at making new friends and connections. Finally, there will be FAQ sessions to address common concerns and questions, ensuring that freshmen can easily find answers to any lingering confusion they may have.

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# **4. Methods and Activities:** (250 words) - WX, Liang

Describe the activities undertaken and methods used in your project. Note that this section must be closely related to the aims, i.e. here you must describe the process used to achieve the aims. For example, for an UI development task, probably there will be some requirement elicitation and initial design, followed by several cycles of implementation, testing and feedback until the interface reaches a stable point.

**Stage 1: Requirement elicitation**

Questionnaire: It can be posted online to widely collect the thoughts of students from different schools and even people with different thinking.

Interview survey: Conduct interviews with students, teachers and administrators at the school, and you can also conduct surveys in different schools.

This can effectively understand the main needs, challenges and concerns of new students, and help to understand the functions and information the website should provide in many aspects.

**Stage 2: Initial design and development content creation**

Initial design concept: Use data collected online to develop an initial design concept for the website, focusing on practicality and feasibility. Create wireframes and mockups to visualize the structure and flow of the website.

**Stage 3：Testing and Feedback**

User testing:：

Iterative improvements:

**Stage 4：FQA**

Feedback mechanism:

FAQ and support:

# **5. Results:** (750 words) - Isaac

Describe and analyse the results obtained. Again, for the UI development, you can present a screenshot, diagrams, list of functional requirements, etc. Also, please indicate what are the limitations of the experiments, and the implementation itself in terms of performance and flexibility – how could it be extended or modified to suit similar, but different projects? Note again, that the results must reference the aims and Methods.

# 6. Ethics: (250 words)

As we manage a website, it will inevitably come into contact with some visitor information, or we need some specific information to improve our user experience. Of course, our team takes the handling of data and the ethics of information very seriously. We put user privacy and data security almost first.  
  
First,we will take a series of measures, including encrypting data, restricting access rights, conducting regular security audits, etc., to protect user data from unauthorized access and abuse.  
  
Secondly, we have a strict data policy that clearly outlines how data is collected, used and stored. We respect our users' choices and are always transparent about the purposes for which we collect data and obtain their consent when necessary.We will adhere to ethical standards throughout the entire information life cycle. Strive to ensure the accuracy, completeness and confidentiality of data and promptly delete expired data when it is no longer needed.  
  
Finally, we will strictly follow ISO's relevant standards to ensure that our information management reaches international standards. Develop and refine relevant policies and procedures to enhance the transparency and compliance of data management, protect user privacy and data security, while providing users with high-quality services and products.

# 7. References: (references do not contribute to the word limit):

Even if your project is not academic in nature, references are always necessary. Don’t ignore this section. References are important if the reader wants to know more about the overall topic of your work, and what tools and other studies you based your work on.