

Projects in Computing and Information Systems

CH3

Choosing a project and writing a proposal

Dr. Ahmed Abdalaal

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Choosing a project and writing a proposal

Aims:

- To introduce techniques for choosing an appropriate project, and to discuss the skills needed to write a satisfactory project proposal.

Learning objectives:

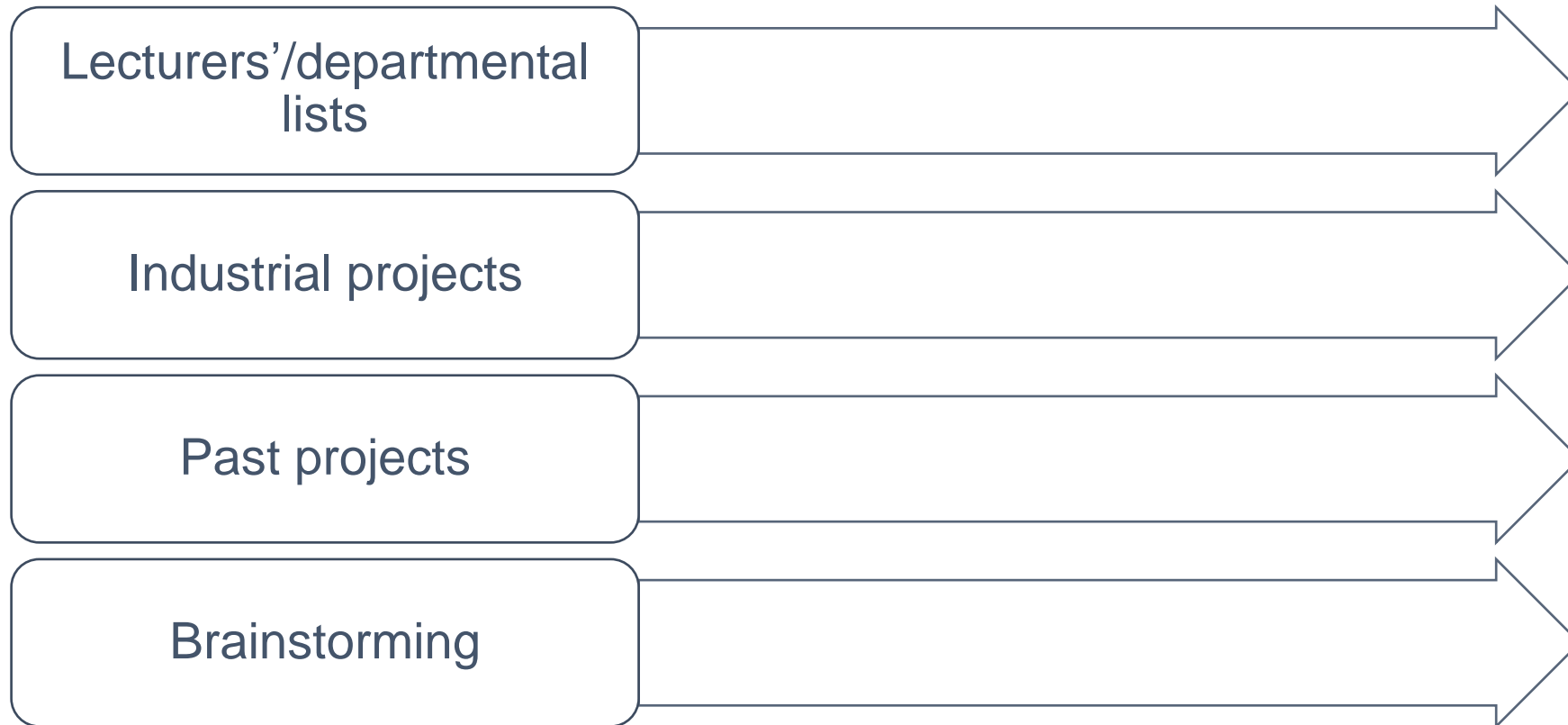
When you have completed this chapter, you should be able to:

- Choose an appropriate project.
- Write a project proposal.
- Make effective decisions when choosing your project supervisor.

Choosing a project

- You must be capable of doing the proposed project in the time available.
- You have all the relevant skills that are needed.
- Choose a project that interests you.
- Consider your personal development and choose a project that will assist you in your goals.
- Your project should have a serious purpose and a clear outcome that will benefit someone.
- Your project links in suitably with your degree course.
- Your project is of sufficient scope and quality to fit the requirements of your course.
- The resources you require for your project are available or can be obtained.

Techniques and information sources



Techniques and information sources

Examples of tools that help you create mind maps and conceptual diagrams include

- Miro (<https://www.miro.com>)
- Mindmeister (<https://www.mindmeister.com>)
- FreeMind (http://freemind.sourceforge.net/wiki/index.php/Main_Page)
- NovaMind (<http://www.novamind.com/>)
- MindGenius (<http://www.mindgenius.com/>)
- MindNode (<https://mindnode.com/>)



- [https://miro.com/welcomeonboard/aGR2Z0xIdGFTMFRKb21US3JUN0E4a3V5Z1pVc0lBY0J0MkhSeTRpZWw4M0pBWmILNDYxQkZ6MWhlVWJXQUs1enwzMDc0NDU3MzY0NjcxNzkwNDkx?invite link id=789538919874](https://miro.com/welcomeonboard/aGR2Z0xIdGFTMFRKb21US3JUN0E4a3V5Z1pVc0lBY0J0MkhSeTRpZWw4M0pBWmILNDYxQkZ6MWhlVWJXQUs1enwzMDc0NDU3MzY0NjcxNzkwNDkx?invite_link_id=789538919874)



<https://mm.tt/2035667764?t=6kW6NTwdBT>

Preparing a project proposal

Two golden rules.

- 1. Follow any **guidelines precisely**:** most institutions have specific information they require; for example, project title, project objectives, resource requirements and so forth. Failure to complete these sections may mean your proposal is rejected without even being read, for example, because you failed to get an academic signature, or did not complete an essential section properly.
- 2. Proofread it thoroughly (and get someone else to check it):** any errors and omissions will appear sloppy and put your commitment and proposed project in a bad light.

Preparing a project proposal

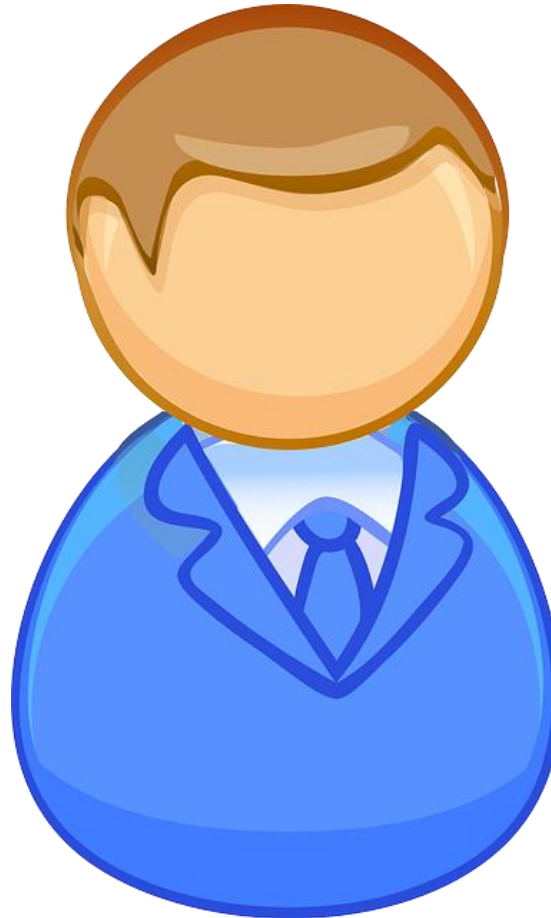
Implicit content

- Introduction to the subject area.
- Current research in the field.
- Identify a gap.
- Identify how your work fills the gap.
- Identify risks and solutions.

Explicit sections

- Title
- Aims and objectives
- Expected outcomes/deliverables
- Keywords
- Introduction/background/overview
- Related research
- Type of project
- Research questions and hypotheses
- Methods
- Resource requirements
- Project plan

Choosing your supervisor



Summary

- Choosing the **right project** is probably the most important stage of any project.
- A number of techniques have been presented that you can use to assist you with choosing a suitable project.
- When preparing a proposal there are **two golden rules**; follow any guidelines precisely and proofread it thoroughly.
- A project proposal should include, at least **implicitly**: *background, related research, identification of a gap, how your project fills that gap, and risks and contingency plans.*
- Project proposals should include, at the very least, sections such as *project title, aims and objectives* and *expected outcomes/deliverables*.
- Questions have been presented that you should ask yourself before you choose your project supervisor – if this is possible within your own institution.

Thanks