Initial Project Overview (IPO)

Honours Project
SOC10101 (40 credit)

Module Leader
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- **Initial Project Overview (IPO)**

  - The IPO:

    - Defines the project's aims and objectives

    - Sets the scope and constraints

    - Identifies stakeholders

    - Identifies a business case

    - Feasibility / Risks

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- **Aim** = What you hope to achieve (deliverable)

- **Objective** = The action(s) you need to complete to achieve the aim.

- Aims are usually broad terms that set out what you hope to achieve at the end of the project.

- Objectives are specific steps that are needed to achieve the desired outcome.

- **Objectives should be S.M.A.R.T and defined in terms of strong verbs Collate, create, classify, develop, manufacture, measure, produce, review, select, synthesise**

- **Specific** – Be exact about what you are going to do
- **Measurable** – The objective has a clearly defined end point
- **Achievable** – Is the goal achievable - It is better to set realistic goals rather than ones which are overly ambitious.
- **Realistic** – Are the resources required to achieve the objective available – time, money, equipment, skills, etc.
- **Time** constrained – There may be many objectives needed to achieve an aim. Is there enough time to complete all objectives? Is there time to allow for unexpected setbacks.

Example:

- **Aim:** Develop a Java Graphical User Interface (GUI) builder for novice programmers that can be used as an educational tool

- **Objectives**
  – Review currently available GUI builders for Java
  – Identify suitable software design methodologies, architectures, and patterns.
  – Review literature surrounding teaching of Java to novice programmers with relation to Integrated development environments (IDEs)
  – Design
  – Develop
  – Test
  – Evaluate – Investigate best practices for creating usability surveys

Initial Project Overview

SOC10101 Honours Project (40 Credits)

Title of Project:

Overview of Project Content and Milestones

The Main Deliverable(s):

The Target Audience for the Deliverable(s):

The Work to be Undertaken:

Additional Information / Knowledge Required:

Information Sources that Provide a Context for the Project:

The Importance of the Project:

The Key Challenge(s) to be Overcome:

Edinburgh Napier
UNIVERSITY

Word document template and guidelines available on Moodle

Use the template

Max 2 pages when completed

Title + 8 Sections

1. Overview of Project Content and Milestones

A summary of the project identifying the most important stages that have to be completed in order for the project to be successful.   Key Terms: To visualise, to develop, to research, to create, etc.

Milestones are scheduled events, or "flags" indicating that some task or set of tasks has been completed.
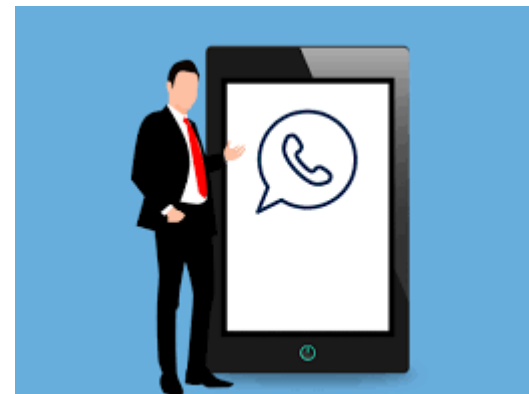
2. The Main Deliverable(s)

The most important elements and achievement of the project when it is completed. (AIMS)

3. The Target Audience for the Deliverable(s)

Name the particular type of users, organisation, other researchers, people working the field, etc., -- not just "users."
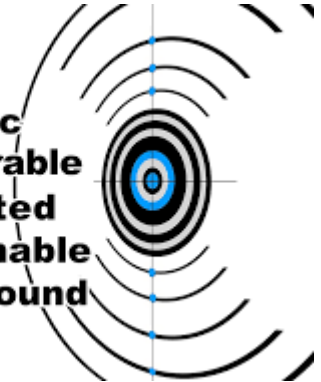
4. The Work to be Undertaken

Terms: Investigation, data collection, specification, design, building, implementation, conducting (surveys, interviews), analysis, evaluation, testing etc.

5. Additional Information / Knowledge Required

New knowledge acquired, extending current skills, technologies used…

S Specific
M Measurable
A Accepted
R Reasonable
T Time-bound

6. Information Sources that Provide a Context for the Project

High quality references, organisations, specific users, prior art (something that has already been done, that is similar to or the same as this project), web sites …

Nielsen, J. and Molich, R. 1990. Heuristic evaluation of user interfaces. In Proceedings of the SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems: Empowering People (Seattle, Washington, United States, April 01 - 05, 1990). J. C. Chew and J. Whiteside, Eds. CHI '90. ACM, New York, NY, 249-256.

7. The Importance of the Project

Significance -- but also novelty (is it something that hasn't been done before – is it a new way of doing something that has been done before e.g. using OpenSource technology where only proprietary in the past).

8. The Key Challenge(s) to be Overcome

The main anticipated difficulties associated with your project, to which you may have to devote time or attention to ensure success.

Is the project of the required standard? (if not, what changes are required?)Is the project viable? (if not, what changes are required?)Does the project provide a realistic challenge for the student? (if not, what changes are required?)Is the project appropriate for the student's programme? (consult project guidance - if not, what changes are required?)Is the student adequately supported? (if not, what changes are required?) Any other feedback

Week 3

- **Initial Project Overview (IPO)**

  – The IPO should be completed with input from your supervisor.

  – You should submit the IPO to Moodle by the end of **Week 3**.

  – Email your second marker when you have completed this.

  – Your second marker will provide feedback via Moodle.

  – **The IPO is required** as an appendix in the dissertation (used to reflect on the success LO4).

A template and guidelines are available on Moodle