**Research Project**

The aim of doing this small-scale research project is for you to gain appreciation for research through your own experience. This piece of practical work will build your confidence and competence in doing research and assist you to better critique other research. If you have no experience in research, **then you MUST be proactive in building up a good working relationship with your supervisor (Russel or Phil). You must involve your supervisor in guiding and advising you on the different stages of your research and the decisions you make.** The supervision will have aspects of mentoring and coaching.

This research project will involve primary data. You will either collect some primary data or use data that has already been collected. Secondary research as in a literature review or summary of the workings of technology is not appropriate. However, if you are doing a design science approach, then building and testing a set of metrics will be sufficient (consult with your supervisor). The research must be relevant to a group of people and make a contribution to a field or body of knowledge.

Aim to spend approximately 100 hours in total, including; planning, conducting the research, and writing it up. See if you can make writing your friend, not just something that is to satisfy an external assessment, but more as an ally to assist you in your thinking. Writing can be something that reflects back to you your understanding. A movement can develop between your internal thinking and your external expressions such that understanding is built and insights can occur.

**Research Proposal**

The purpose of the proposal is so that you are ready to do a successful research project.

Due: During mid-semester break Weighting: 0%. Formative assessment.

Submit a draft proposal by email to your supervisor. It typically takes several iterations of consultation with your supervisor working on the proposal before you are ready and set up for research success. Explicit approval is required before you continue with the research.

Include the following

1. An introduction describing the topic area, why you are interested in it, why it is relevant to others, what potential contribution it will make.
2. A critique of at least five journal articles related to your topic and/or your research method (about half a page each). A summary in a table could be very useful.
3. Give an overview of all the research required to investigate your topic area. Typically, you will choose a small part of this to do as your project. Perhaps, it is the first thing to do. Perhaps, it is the bit you can do. Give rationale for your decision.
4. The research question. This may contain a number of sub-questions.
5. Research Method. A plan of action: what, where, who, why and how.
6. A pilot test run of the method. This is almost always extremely useful in informing you on how to refine details of your method and its application. A pilot test can also be very useful in assisting you to refine and scope your research question. If you don’t consider a pilot test appropriate, consult with your supervisor.

**Research Report**

Submit to Turnitin before midnight May 27th Weighting: 100%

Include the following:

1. An **abstract** of no more than 100 words that presents your motivation (one sentence), the research question and method (one sentence), the actual findings or recommendations (list them or describe them) and perhaps the next steps.
2. An **introduction**, describing the topic area, why you are interested and why it is relevant and interesting to others.
3. A summary of the **literature** critiqued in the proposal. Perhaps it can be represented as a table that can be easily accessed during the discussion section.
4. The **research question**. This may include a number of sub-questions. You may also give an overview of the wider research efforts required for this topic. The specific research question you are investigating in this research can be put in that context. This wider view will also assist you later in describing the future work that can be done to build on your research findings and conclusions.
5. **Research Design**. Describe what you actually did, where, with who, how. Also describe how you developed and refined the method, including how the pilot test assisted this process.
6. **Findings, Analysis and Discussion**. Divide these up as best suits your study. Include some reflection of your research work according to the literature critique. Did you research support previous findings, contradict them, add new knowledge…?
7. **Limitations & Future Work**. This section would typically be worth about 30%. This is an indication of how useful it is to you. Serious contemplation of the following things will assist you to develop yourself as a researcher.

Identify limitations in your research, including limitations of the research method you used. Such limitations should not be confined to weaknesses in your design, but should go beyond and discuss the use of other research methods that can complement the method that you have used. In experiments, there may be key variables that weren’t included, or could not be included as they could not be measured, or your method was unable to adequately assess the interactions between existing variables. In questionnaires and interviews, there may be many types of respondents who were not covered.

Identify each issue or area of uncertainty that your study raises. For each area do a design plan for further research.

Identify the areas of opportunity, the new areas of research that your findings open up. Typically, these will involve different methods of inquiry from the method you used in your research. For example, if you did interviews, you may be ready with a hypothesis and be able to outline an experiment. If you did interviews, you may be able to offer a draft questionnaire for a future study. An experimental study may show up the need for further exploratory study using case studies or a survey in order to better identify variables.

We are looking for quality of written work not quantity. A well written report could be as short as 15 pages. Supporting material can be put as an appendix.

The report will be marked as a whole. The advantage of that is that extended effort in any appropriate area can be rewarded if it is effective and worthwhile.

In order to gain adequate proficiency for completing the different sections of the research report, you need to come to the corresponding lectures. A register of lecture attendance will be kept to assist the supervisor to better assess your commitment and work.

To apply for an extension of the due date use the application for extension form available at the School Reception Desk. Late submissions will be reduced by 5% for every working day.