MSc Bioinformatics and Systems Biology
BIOL61230 (Research Project 1): Report preparation and submission

Please note that the following document regarding the preparation and submission of your project/dissertation provides general advice only and **it is essential that all students discuss detailed project plans with their supervisor(s)**.

Submission

- Submission deadlines will be advertised to you on Blackboard.
- **Submission will be in electronic format only**: A PDF copy of your report should be submitted via Blackboard so that it can be checked by plagiarism software. The submission area and marking criteria can be found in the appropriate project unit on Blackboard.
- Please add a title page as specified in the University of Manchester "Guidance for the Presentation of Taught Masters Dissertations".
- There are penalties for late submission, please refer to your Programme Handbook for details.

Format

- The word limit of your report is 9,000 words (recommended 6,000 – 9,000 words). You should display the word count on the contents page of your report. The word count excludes the table of contents, bibliography, glossaries, tables, figures and figure legends, but is inclusive of footnotes and endnotes.
- The report should include no more than eight display items (figures and tables counted together).
- Appendices are not allowed, but you may post additional data or code in an online repository such as GitHub (with your supervisor's approval).
- Please note that there are penalties for exceeding the word limit, refer to your Programme Handbook for details.
- The report should be written in the style of an Original Paper for the journal Bioinformatics, excluding the page limit (you do not need to use the journal's template). The recommended structure of sections is detailed below.
- A copy of the 'Intellectual Property Statement' must be included in your report. This statement can be found in the "Guidance for the Presentation of Taught Masters Dissertations" (as above) and can be copy/pasted word-for-word.

Organisation and structure

The recommended sections are:
- Title page
- Abstract
- Declaration
- Intellectual property statement
- Acknowledgements
- Introduction: describe the background and motivations of the project (including references to previous publications), present the general aims and specific objectives of the work.
- Methods: explain how the tool/software was developed and implemented, or present the methods used for data processing/analysis (including statistical methods).
- Results: describe the functionalities of the tool/software developed and/or the results obtained from biological data analysis.
- Discussion & Conclusion: interpret and critically evaluate your results, discuss them in relation to external literature and present directions of future work.
- References