UNIVERSITY OF CHESTER - Postgraduate Programmes Assignment Specification
Faculty of Science, Business & Enterprise
Department of Computer Science

Module No	Module Title	Assessment No	Weighting
CO7115	Research Methods	2	50%

Submission Date	Feedback due by
Thursday 8th February 2024 at 17:30	07/03/24 17:30

Assignment Title

Review Paper

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- LO1: Select and investigate a topic of relevance to the program of study and propose new directions for research in that area.
- LO2: Demonstrate a critical understanding of the concept and demands of postgraduate research and be able to critically evaluate current research problems. Show a systematic understanding, and a critical awareness of current practice in CS research.
- LO3: Use current research literature and other relevant resources to support masters-level research report.
- LO4: Show a systematic understanding, and a critical awareness of current practice in CS research.

Submission Information

- This assessment is worth 50% of the overall module mark for CO7115.
- Submission for this assignment will be online, via Turnitin on the CO7115 Moodle page. You must submit your work as a single document in either Microsoft Word format (.docx) or as Adobe PDF format (.pdf), you must use the IEEE style Microsoft Word template document provided to you via the CO7115 Moodle page. Work which is submitted in an alternative format will usually be marked as zero.
- Please note, any work which is submitted elsewhere, other than via the turn-it-in link on the CO7115 Moodle page, will receive a mark of Zero and shall not be marked.
- The use of generative AI tools **IS NOT PERMITTED** and will be treated as a breach of the academic integrity policy

Extensions

No extensions will be granted due to the proximity of the due date to the assessment board.

Academic Conduct

The material you submit must be your own work. Please avoid colluding with peers on your work. The penalties for breaching the academic conduct policy are severe. The minimum penalty is usually zero for that piece of work. Further information is available at Portal > Support Departments > Academic Services > Academic Standards > Academic Conduct > Information for Students > Academic Conduct

Generative AI

The use of generative AI tools where not permitted will be treated as a breach of the academic integrity policy.

This assignment **does not** permit the use of any generative AI tools, including but not limited to ChatGPT, Bard, Copilot, Midjourney, and others.

Assignment Brief

You are required to produce a review paper (max. length: 2500 words) on an area of the academic and professional literature relating to your M.Sc. subject (Computer Science or Cybersecurity). Your paper should clearly summarise the current state of practice and research in the subject you have chosen and outline promising areas for future research.

You must demonstrate competence in producing an academic literature review (as opposed to other written formats, such as a business report or popular magazine article). To help you with this requirement, you should use *How to Write a Literature Review: Workbook in Six Steps* (Ollhoff, 2013), other books on the module reading list as a starting point, as well as resources provided on the University's Study Skills pages (https://moodle.chester.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=8136).

This assignment requires you to produce a well-structured essay of up to 2500 words. As usual, _full references in APA7 style_ are required. You <u>must</u> use the IEEE template provided to format your essay before submitting it. The normal rules relating to excessive word count and late submission will apply.

Assessment Criteria

A pass mark for this assignment should meet the following criteria;

A. Evidence of a good range of reading, going beyond core or basic texts, with sources appropriately acknowledged according to academic referencing conventions.
B. A practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry or systems development are used to create and interpret knowledge in your M.Sc. field (Computer Science or Cybersecurity)
C. Evidence of ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively. Consistent analysis and critical evaluation of current research and advanced scholarship your M.Sc. field (Computer Science or Cybersecurity), with an awareness of its relationship to academic research in general. Appropriate use of coherent argument, supported by evidence.
D. Clear expression, observing academic form (observing APA referencing style throughout), which is predominantly accurate in spelling and grammar. Conclusions which are communicated clearly for specialist and non-specialist audiences as appropriate.

Distinction marks will only be given for work which fulfils the above criteria, but which also satisfy the following additional criteria;

A. Excellent coverage, offering sophisticated or original insights, or a synthesis, of disparate material.
B. Extensive, well-referenced research both in breadth and depth.
C. Sophisticated evaluation of possibilities and limitations of the methods used. These may be either traditional research methods or systems development methods.
D. Lively, articulate communication demonstrating enthusiasm and control.
E. Excellent presentation, showing accuracy and clarity of expression throughout.

Work which fails to address the pass mark criteria above as a minimum will receive a fail mark.