Discipline of Information Technology
National University of Ireland, Galway

B.Sc. (CS&IT) CT413 - FINAL YEAR PROJECTS 2016/2017
B.E. (ECE) CT434 - FINAL YEAR PROJECTS 2016/2017

The final year project is a major component of the 4th year of your degree programme. Important milestones for the final year project are:

Milestone	Due Date
Project Definition Document	Friday, 4th November 2016
Final Project Report	April 2017 (Date TBD)
Project Bench Demonstration	April 2017 (Date TBD)
Project Viva Voce	April 2017 (Date TBD)

The project assessment and marking is based on a number of project components, the most important being:

- Project Definition Document
- Project Demonstration
- Project Video
- Project Final Report
- Viva Voce (Interview)

In determining the overall project mark, the project examiners will apply the guidelines on project standards: see final page of this document. Note that projects may take either a research focus and/or a software development focus.

Project Definition Document

This report (about 8 pages) should outline the project and describe the proposals for tackling it. It must be written to a professional standard. This is essentially a Requirements Specification for the project and should demonstrate that you fully understand the project / research requirements and the technologies that will be used to design and implement the project deliverables. You should consult with your project supervisor for guidelines on the precise format and layout of this report, as this may vary depending on the individual nature of each project. **Three copies** should be submitted to your supervisor by the deadline listed above.

Project Demonstration

Each student will be required to give a bench demonstration and verbal report on their project to staff members. This will be done during the week listed earlier, in the 4th year laboratories. A detailed schedule will be drawn up and circulated at a later date. Each project will be viewed by a minimum of two staff members (their project supervisor and a second marker) who will also read their project reports and participate in the viva voce.

Project Video

Each project should be accompanied by a short (1-2 minutes) video, uploaded to YouTube or a similar online service. Your supervisor will provide more details on this during the year. The video should provide a brief narrated demonstration of the project, and may also optionally include a brief discussion of research, technologies, etc. as appropriate to your project.

Final Report

This should be in the form of a mini-thesis with an emphasis on clarity and good presentation. The external examiner may be interested in reading this report. The marks, which are allocated to the final report and viva voce, will be based not just on the quality of the actual final report submitted but also on how the candidate has performed in completing the overall project. We suggest the following chapter breakdown, although you should discuss the precise format with your supervisor:

Chapter 1: Introduction and literature review. Include putting the work in its academic or business context.
Chapter 2: Technical Review. What techniques and methodologies have been previously used and how did they influence the development of your project.
Chapter 3: What you did; Description of the technical issues of your project.
Chapter 4: Results; what happened, evaluation, final deliverables etc.
Chapter 5: Final conclusion, future work, putting your results in context.

The precise format of the report and the way the individual contributions will be identified within the report should be agreed in advance with the Project Supervisor. The final report should normally be about 25-35 pages and be ring bound. Note that you must consult with your supervisor to determine the appropriate format and scope for your project.

Three copies of the report should be submitted to your supervisor by the deadline.

Viva Voce

This is the final part of the project assessment and takes the form of an interview / oral examination of your project. This interview will cover the project requirements, research undertaken, technologies used, design / implementation details, your final conclusions and any other details relevant to your project. The interviews will take place during the week listed earlier. A detailed schedule will be drawn up and circulated at a later date. The interview board will consist of your project supervisor, a second marker and a third person who will chair the interview board.

Failure to submit the project definition document or final report, or to appear at the bench demonstrations or viva voce, without due cause, will result in reduced marks and may imply failure of the final year project.

Final Year Project Regulations

1. **Plagiarism**: The University defines plagiarism and related misconduct very clearly in the various College statutes and regulations. All project work, written or otherwise, submitted by students (or project groups) to their supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. If your project involves the use of existing design ideas, algorithms, source code or other related material, you must clearly acknowledge its use and properly identify the origin of this material. In cases where students feel unsure about a question of plagiarism involving their project work, they are obliged to consult their project supervisor on the matter before submission. If there is evidence of plagiarism in any element of the submitted project work, the student or project group involved will face disciplinary action. **Possible penalties for plagiarism within the final year project range from a failure of the project (the minimum penalty) to expulsion from the University**.

2. **Responsibilities of the Student**: The student's responsibilities include the formulation of detailed project requirements, the transformation of these requirements into a viable project plan, research and synthesis of the current state of the art in the relevant technology / scientific areas and the subsequent design and development of a working project implementation. In the case of a project with a bias towards scientific research, the implementation may take the form of the development or evaluation of experimental case studies or other analytical techniques. The student has primary responsibility for project planning, management and reporting, and, is also required to make regular contact with their assigned project supervisor.

3. **Role of the Supervisor and Examiners**: The supervisor will provide direction on the project requirements as well as overall guidance and feedback on the project methodology, progress and deliverables. It is not the responsibility of the project supervisor to conduct research on behalf of the student, or to provide specific advice on the design or implementation technologies that may be used. The project supervisor and secondary marker will subsequently evaluate and mark all elements of project work submitted by the student (or project group).

4. **Substantial Working Implementation:** Most of the projects require some element of software or hardware development. In such projects, failure to produce a substantial working implementation of the project will result in the project being failed overall.

5. **No Repeat Facility**: As the final year project is a lab-based subject and is assessed during the academic year, there is no facility to repeat the final year project (or any component of the project) in the Autumn examinations. If you fail the final year project, or do not submit it by the deadline, you will have to repeat the project during the following academic year.