

MSc in Communications Software Interim Dissertation Report Guidelines

The following is an outline of the deliverable due at the end of Semester 2 for the dissertation.

1. Review of your dissertation proposal in light of feedback you have received and your ongoing research. This should entail revisiting your research question and your overall approach to your research. (~ 2 pages)
2. A more detailed literature review examining the relevant literature in your research domain. This section must include a conclusions section summarising where your work sits in the overall area. The literature review should not only summarise the related work by discussing, for each reference, the research question and the solution proposed by the respective authors. It should also put this particular reference into the context of your own dissertation, and critically discuss how it contributed, and how not. Criticism does not mean to discuss negative things about the related work (this would be a very rare case), but reveal the limitations in relation to your own work. In the conclusion, this naturally leads into what research questions are still unanswered, and into your approach (or future work for the big questions).
3. A demonstration of prototype/simulation, if applicable, to show that you have made progress with your practical work, along with the theoretical research.
4. A revised plan of action and methodological approach. This should not just be a Gantt chart/project plan but also include a description of how you intend approaching your remaining dissertation research work. (~2 pages)

The draft literature review should account for a significant portion of the document content.

You may wish to use the LNCS template that you will be using for your final dissertation document (see information on this below).

Advance notification:

The final dissertation deliverable will take the form of a 'Conference/Journal style' publication. You may add appendices containing supporting material as required. All students will be required to give a final presentation/demonstration of their dissertation work in early September.

We have chosen an external professional template for the final dissertation papers. This is Springer's LNCS template. You must use this. Note that this template has a relatively small number of words per page (about half the IEEE 2-column format). We expect that most papers will be in the range of 15-20 pages, excluding references and appendices.

Information for LNCS Authors is provided at this website:

<http://www.springer.com/sgw/cda/frontpage/0,11855,5-164-2-72376-0,00.html>

Ensure that your submission complies with all formatting guidelines for "Proceedings and Other Multiauthor Volumes". MS Word and LaTeX templates are available.

Important dates:

Deadline for Interim Report: Friday May 1st (no extensions possible)

Deadline for Final Dissertation: late August (precise date to be announced)