



Software requirement specification Version 0.5

Soft**Serve** Group

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1 Introduction

A Post-Doctoral fellow is a person who conducts research after they have completed their PhD, with the aim of deepening their knowledge in a specific field. The University of Pretoria supports such research opportunities in order to increase research output of the University. Post-Doctoral fellows who conduct their research at the University of Pretoria do so under the supervision of a staff member of the University and their research may be privately or internally funded. This is a growing field in Universities around South Africa. Thus a lack in the IT services for the application management of Post-Doctoral fellow has been spotted by SoftServe.

1.1 Purpose:

This Software Specifications Requirements document serves the purpose of providing a detailed overview of the non-functional and functional requirements as well the goals that SoftServe's Post-Doctoral application management system wishes to satisfy. Further it defines the abstract interaction of stakeholders with the system. Thus this document serves as a contract between SoftServe and the client, Mrs Cathy Sandis of the DRIS of the University of Pretoria.

1.2 Document Conventions:

- Documentation formulation: LaTeX
- ERD Crow-Foot notation
- UML 2.0

1.3 Project Scope:

The scope of the project is to design a Post-Doctoral application management system where prospective or current Post-Doctoral fellows can apply for or renew fellowships at the University of Pretoria. The system will then further allow the management of such applications/renewals till the end of the application process. The end is defined as: DIRS have approved the application and have notified the CSC and Finance department. The system will replace the current paper based system currently in place. The system will be designed so to allow for future integration with the current student and personnel management system, PeopleSoft,

employed by the University of Pretoria. Though the scope of this SRS document will be to make the system and have it independent of any other system.

1.4 References:

- Dr.Phil, K., 2010, *Requirements Engineering: Fundamentals, Principles, and Techniques*, Springer, Heidelberg.

2 Vision

The client needs a system which can make the management of the application and renewal processes of Post-Doctoral fellowships more effective, reliable, secure and audit-able. Together the client and SoftServe have envisioned a system that will make use of a centralised user friendly web interface that will be used by the prospective fellows and all the stakeholders involved in the application and renewal processes. The system will have various sections that handle the different stages in the process. The system will need to automate the transitions between phases by forwarding the required information to the next stakeholder in the process and notifying them via a email notification. The system will also need to provide reporting facilities for the information stored by the system. As well as progress tracking with regards to any application or renewal. The system data needs to be centralised to ensure that any information used by system is cohesive and valid for any stakeholder who accesses it. By introducing a digital system that is not paper based, the client hopes that the application and renewal processes will be easier to track and manage.

3 Background

The current Post-Doctoral application and renewal processes are paper based thus there are a number of drawbacks, mainly due to human error. One such drawback is that there is no audit trail when it comes to the different stakeholders input involved in approving or declining the applications. Another involves the minutes of Post-Doctoral committee meetings which are often misplaced or typed in an inconsistent manner making it hard to recall what has been discussed in the meetings that evaluate prospective applications

and renewals. Access to documents is also a problem since they are usually hard copies that change hands constantly thus the process of getting hold of the documents is long and often tedious if not made impossible if they are lost. Reporting on the information of fellows, renewals and even communication with already approved fellows is also problematic, because the current system is not centralised. Therefore gathering all the information required to generate the reports is difficult or even impossible. This is where the client Mrs Cathy Sandis saw a potential area that could be optimised by the implementation of digitalised system. This is where the SoftServe group was brought into the picture.

4 Methodology

This document was created using the requirement elicitation techniques and requirement definitions specified in Klaus Pohl's book Requirements Engineering: Fundamentals, Principles, and Techniques [Dr.Phol, K., 2010]. The requirements were elicited from the following sources:

- Numerous interviews with the client
- Collecting and analysing various documents such as:
 - The initial project request document
 - Application forms
 - Renewal forms
 - CV templates
 - Approval and recommendation forms
- Online research into UP Post doctoral applications
- Correspondence with the UP IT department

5 Stakeholders

The stakeholders that will engage or be engaged by the system are listed below:

There are three categories under which stockholders can fall:

- **External:** These are stakeholders that do not have a PeopleSoft account or are fellows.
 - **Prospective fellow** - A person who wishes to renew or apply for a research position/fellowship.
 - **Referee** - A person who is identified by a Prospective fellow as a referral.
- **Internal individuals:** These are stakeholders that do have a PeopleSoft account and are individual members of staff.
 - **Grant holder** - The person who is a fellow's supervisor and a member of staff at the University of Pretoria. This person is known also as the applicant.
 - **HOD** - The head of the department of which a Grant holder is a member.
- **Internal groups:** These are stakeholders that do have a PeopleSoft account and are a group of staff members.
 - **Dean's office** - The dean and deputy dean of the faculty under which the department which the Grant Holder is a member of.
 - **DRIS** - The department of Research and Innovation Support at the University of Pretoria. This stakeholder oversees the application and renewal processes.
 - **Post-doctoral committee** - The committee who evaluates any post-doctoral fellowship applications and renewals.
 - **CSC** - The client service centre of the University of Pretoria.
 - **Finance** - The department of finance at the University of Pretoria.

6 Architecture requirements

6.1 Access channel requirements

All stakeholders: Will access the system through a HTML 5 web browser client that is locally installed on a user's computer system or mobile platform. Support for HTML 4.0.1 will also be implemented. The web interface will allow different stakeholders access to different sections of the system based on the roles assigned to their accounts.

6.2 Quality requirements

6.2.1 Availability:

The system's availability on designated networks will depend on the availability of the University of Pretoria's servers that host the system. If the University of Pretoria's servers hosting the system are active and provide access over a designated network then the system must be available over that designated network. The designated networks are defined as the internet and the campus network of the University of Pretoria.

6.2.2 Security requirements

The system will need to be fully secured since the system deals with confidential information such as person information, application statuses, financial data and meeting information. Also since the systems main goal is to provide stable and audible application and renewal process flow the system may not be vulnerable to data tampering or any tampering whatsoever.

The system will have to provide different security roles to the registered users on the system. Any number of roles should be assignable to any user by a administrator with the correct role to allow for flexibility. But in essence a stakeholder may only have access to their section of the application process. The system administrator should be able to view all the sections in the system and should be able to modify them except where they may not.

6.2.3 Scalability requirements

The current aim is to create a scalable system that can support 500 to 1000 applicants per year with possible growth. This is in line with the figures given by the client and the growth in the research sector of the university.

The system needs to be scalable in regard to the following factors:

- **Performance:** This is regarded as the speed and responsiveness of the system. The system needs to be able to handle report queries in less than 10 seconds. It should be able to handle any application section processing in less than 3 seconds.
- **Storage:** This is regarded as the growth and shrinking of the data that is stored. The system will need to be able to handle a database that is in the range of 1 GB to 15 GB that has the potential to grow even larger. The reason for this stems from the requirement that the system will support archival functionality and archived data will store the data for long periods of time.
- **Concurrency:** This is regarded as the amount of active users on the system at the same time. The system will need to support at least 100+/- concurrent users efficiently and effectively since the system requires multiple stakeholders to partake in the application process while there can be multiple applications occurring at the same time.

6.2.4 Testability:

The system must be testable. This will be done using unit testing and following the test plan that will be laid out in the testing document of this project.

Unit testing will test each unit in regard to:

- **Preconditions**
- **Post conditions**

The project will also have two phases of testing:

- **Offline:** This is the initial phase of testing and debugging which will be done with pseudo data.
- **Online:** This is the final phase of testing and debugging which will be done with active real time data.

6.2.5 Auditability:

The system needs to provide an audit trail of all critical actions that occur in the system. Critical actions are considered: user account management operations, login action, logout action and any operation by a user that leads to a change in application data of a particular prospective fellow.

The Audit trail will be in the form of a read-only table stored in the database. It can only be viewed by a user with the correct security role. The system is the only entity that can modify the audit trail where this modification can only be the addition of entries.

6.2.6 Usability requirements

The primary language of the system will be South African English. Any other language support is not considered part of the requirements but the system will be designed to allow for such development in the future.

The system's UI will only consider 2 types of user categories with regard to usability:

- **Trained user:**

This type of user will have to have training in understanding how the system functions and how to use it. Their computer skills will be assumed to be in the range of basic to intermediate. Thus the user interface can allow for certain complexities but these complexities must be kept at a minimal. This user will be regarded as a system administrator. The stakeholders who fall under this category is the DRIS staff members overseeing the application process.

- **Normal user:**

This type of user will have no training. Their computer skills will be assumed to be none or minimal. Therefore the UI that they will have access to will be simplistic and will be as user friendly as possible. The stakeholders that fall under this category will be Prospective fellows, Grant holders, HODs, Deans and Post-doctoral committee members.

6.3 Integration requirements

The system has to integrate with the following systems:

- Must be able to create exportable data packages containing the information of approved fellowships that can easily be loaded into the CSC PeopleSoft system.
- Must be able to query CSC PeopleSoft system to retrieve the account information of internal individuals/group Stakeholders to create a uniform login experience.
- Must assign Prospective fellows with a id number in such a way that is integrable with UP Emplid. SoftServe suggests: "f" + 8 digit code.
- Must be able to access and utilize the NRF researcher ratings.

6.4 Architecture constraints

The following architecture constraints have been selected as being suitable for the system.

1. Database technology: MySQL
2. Development technology: Java EE
3. Web server: Apache Tomcat
4. Application server: GlassFish
5. Web interface protocol: HTTPS

7 Functional requirements

7.1 Introduction

This section discusses the functional requirements for the University of Pretoria's Post-Doctoral application management system. Highlighting the scope and limitations that are faced by the system.

The required functionality, domain objects and use cases related to the functional requirement will be discussed.

7.2 Scope and Limitations/Exclusions

7.2.1 Scope

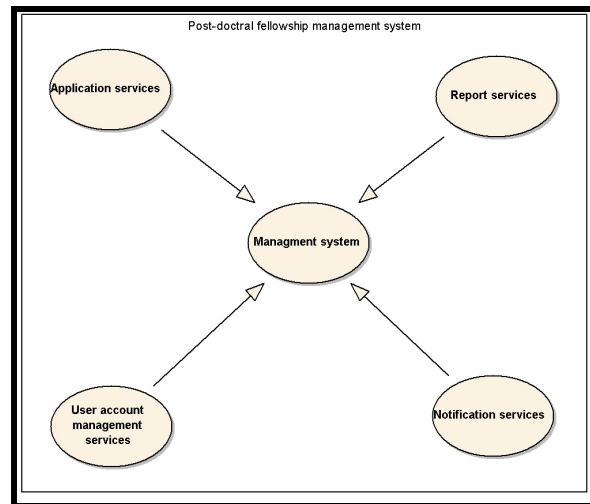


Figure 1: Use case diagram of Post-doctoral fellowship management system

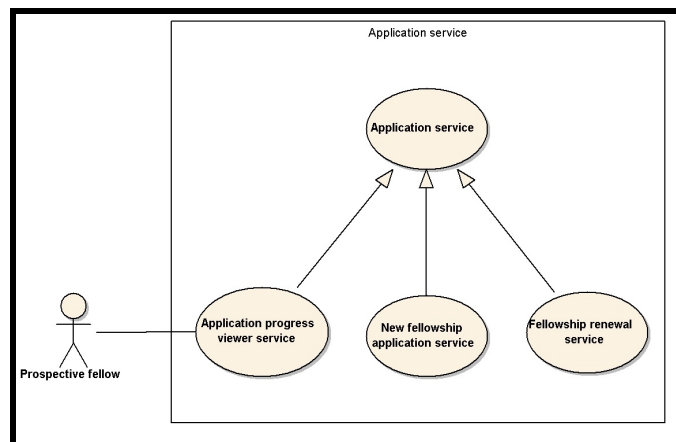


Figure 2: Use case diagram of Application service
Priority: Critical

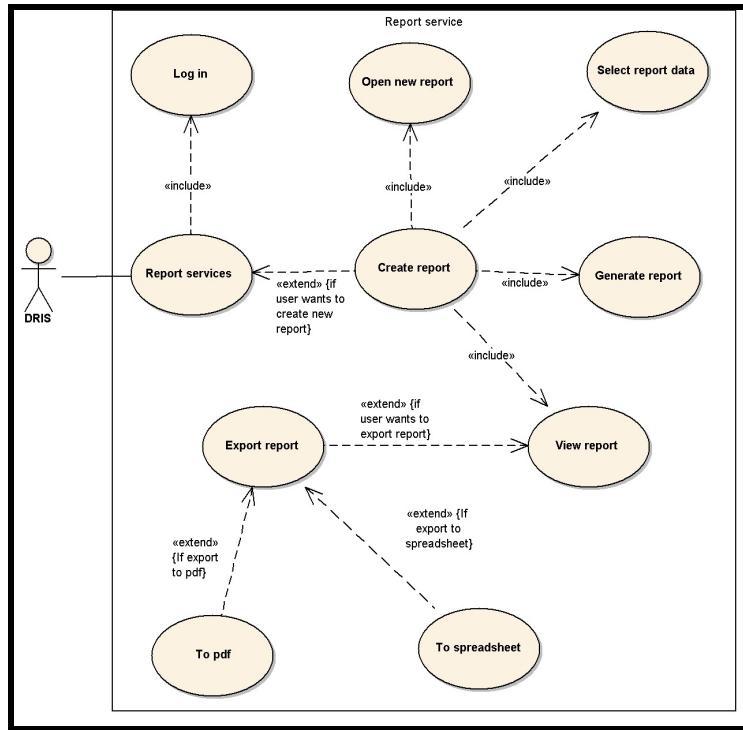


Figure 3: Use case diagram of Report service

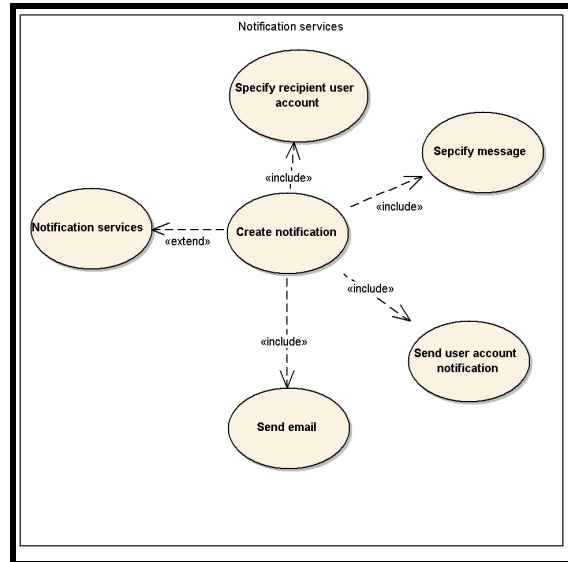


Figure 4: Use case diagram of Notification services

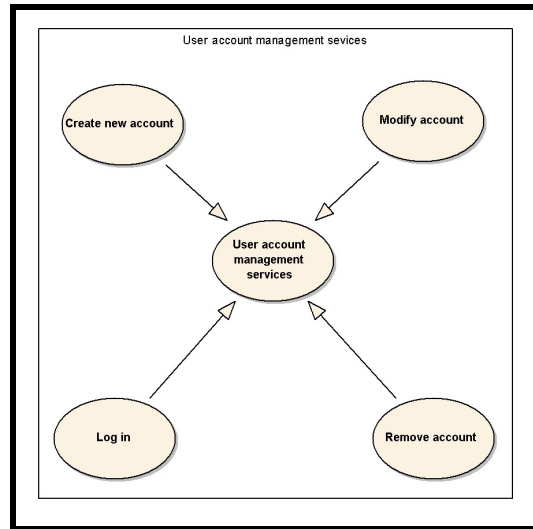


Figure 5: Use case diagram of User account management services
Priority: Critical

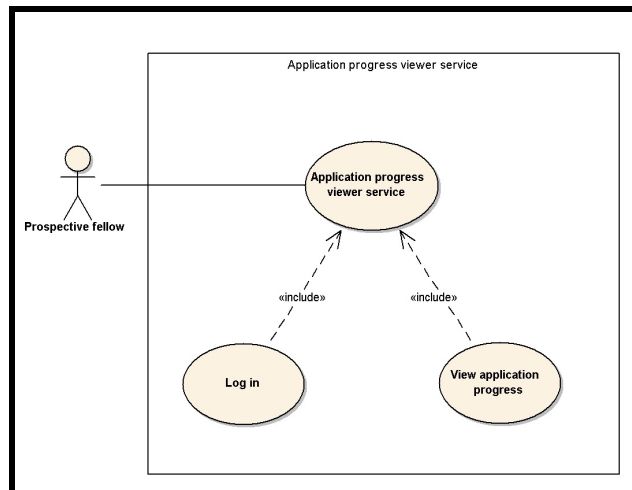


Figure 6: Use case diagram of Application progress viewer service

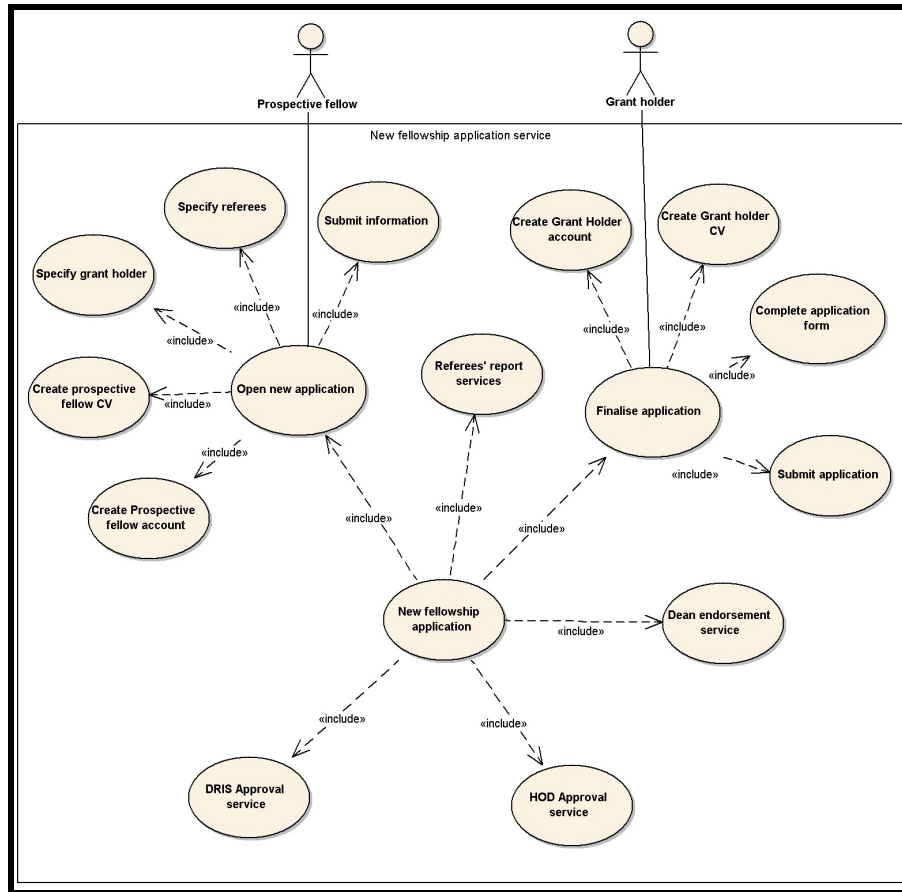


Figure 7: Use case diagram of New fellowship application service

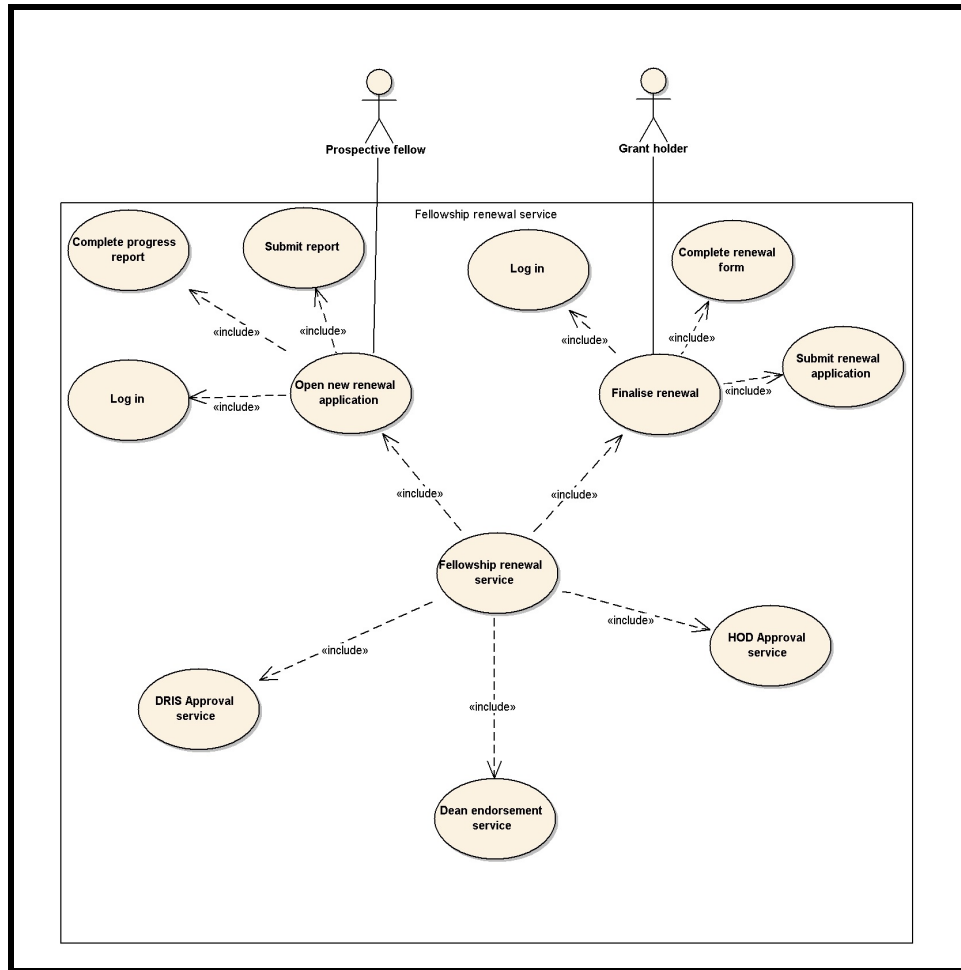


Figure 8: Use case diagram of Fellowship renewal service

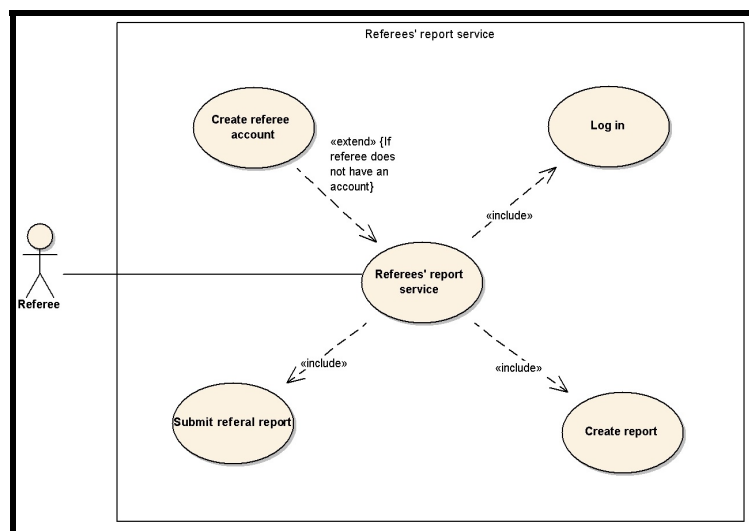


Figure 9: Use case diagram of Referees' report service

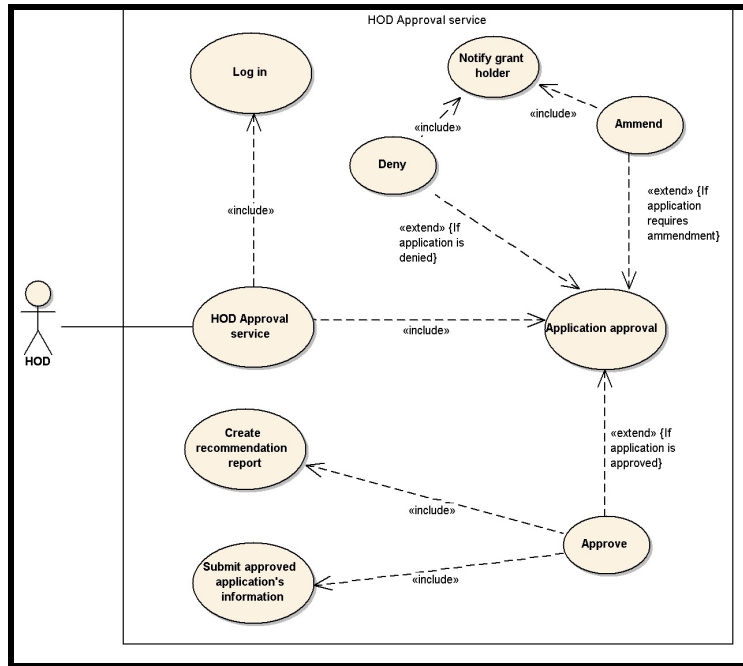


Figure 10: Use case diagram of HOD Approval service

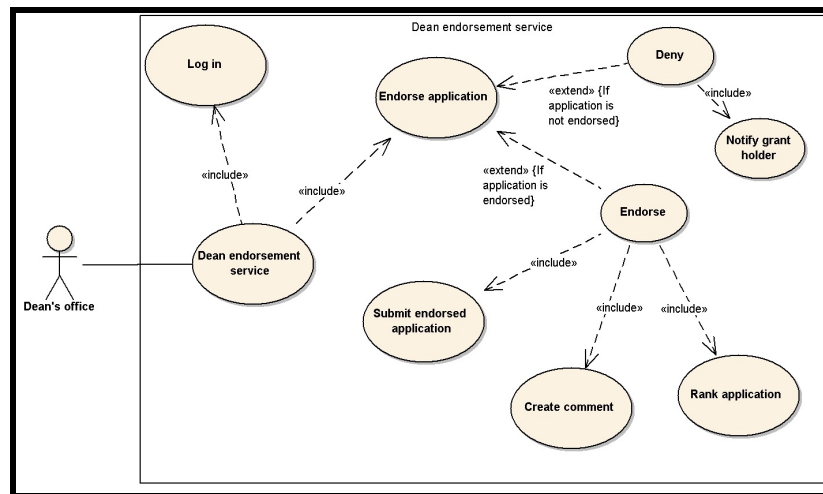


Figure 11: Use case diagram of Dean endorsement service

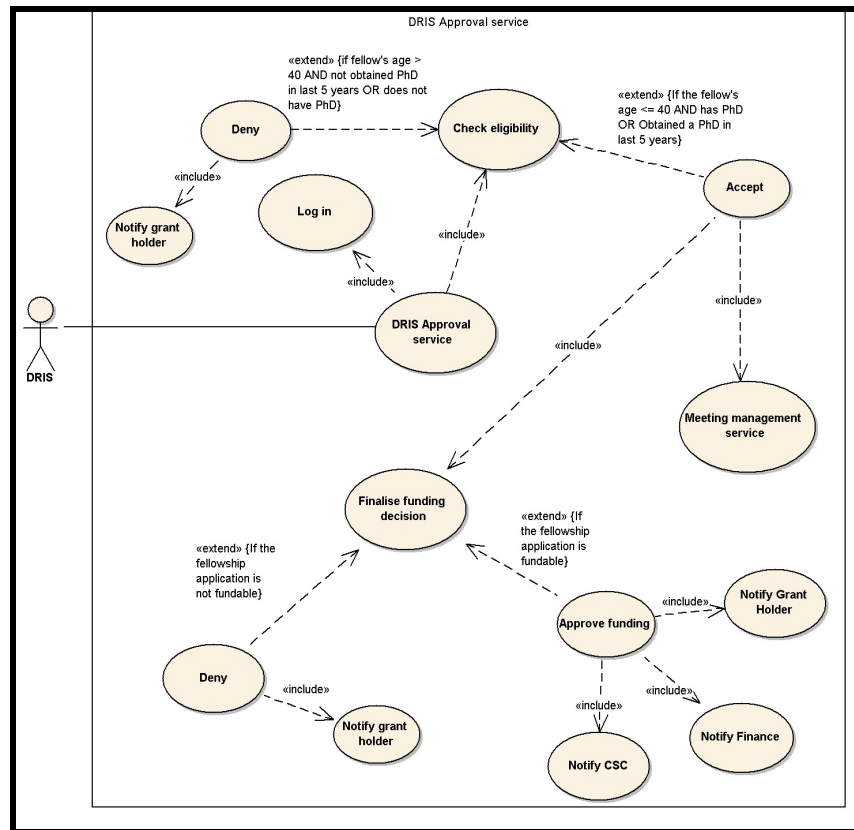


Figure 12: Use case diagram of DRIS approval service

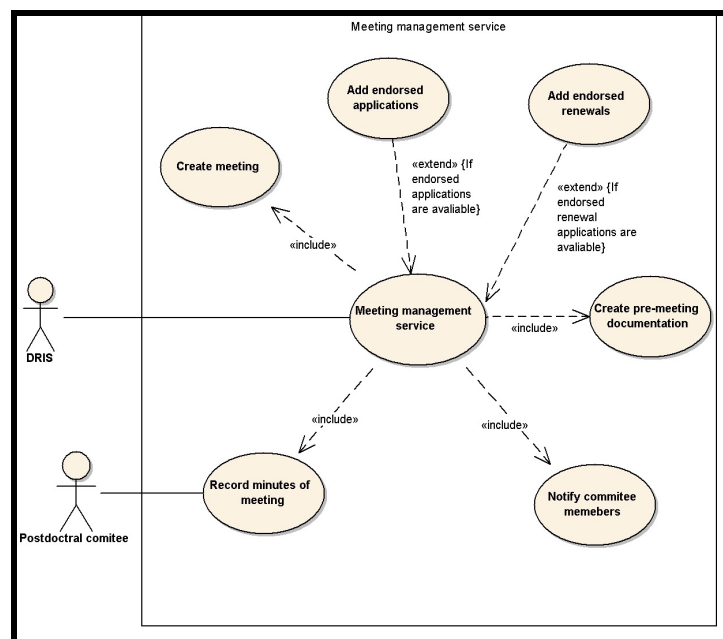


Figure 13: Use case diagram of Meeting management service

7.2.2 Exclusions

Everything not included in this document in terms of scope is considered not in the scope of the project.

7.3 Required functionality

The following sections will discuss the required functionality of all the major services handled by the system. Namely:

- Application service
- Report services
- Notification services
- User account management services

7.3.1 Application services

The main user of these services will be the prospective fellows who wish to track their application progress or renew or apply for a Post-Doctoral fellowship. Other stakeholders will only make use of certain sub-services which are provided under the Application services:

- New fellowship application service API:
 1. Account creation for new prospective fellows, referees and grant holders.
 2. All internal stakeholders should be able to log in with their PeopleSoft account details.
 3. A prospective fellow should be able to open a new application.
 4. A prospective fellow should be able to add their CV in the required format.
 5. A specified grant holder should be able to add their CV in the required format.
 6. A prospective fellow should be able to specify their intended grant holder.
 7. A prospective fellow should be able to specify their intended referees.
 8. A specified grant holder should be able to complete prospective fellows application.
 9. An application should be made available for stakeholders such as the DRIS, HOD and Dean to endorse and approve it.
- Fellowship renewal service API:

1. All internal stakeholders should be able to log in with their PeopleSoft account details.
 2. A fellow should be able to open a new renewal application.
 3. A fellow should be able to add their progress report on all the work they have been working on.
 4. A fellows' grant holder should be able to finalise the renewal application.
 5. The renewal application should be made available to the DRIS, HOD and dean for endorsement and approval.
- Application progress viewer service API:
 1. A prospective fellow should be able to login with their user specified account details.
 2. A prospective fellows application status should be made available for their consideration.

Once the steps are completed the applicants application is now under consideration. The applicant will also be able to see the status of the the applications current state through the whole application process.

7.3.2 Report services

The report use cases provides the uses for report generation such as the generation of an applications current status, or for use required by the DRIS.

1. DRIS stakeholder must be logged into the system.
2. The DRIS must be able to create a report which effectively allows them to:
 - Open new report.
 - Select report data.
 - Generate report.
 - View report.
3. The viewing of a report must allow the report to be exported to either a pdf or a spreadsheet.

7.3.3 User account management services

- Allow users to login.
- The service must be able to create new account.

- Modify account details.
- Remove and account.

7.3.4 Notification services

Every participant is due to receive notifications regarding their actions every now and then. This service is to follow these steps:

- Stakeholders must be able to create a new notification.
- Notification must have recipient.
- Notification must have a non-empty message.
- Notification can be sent as email or to a user account.

7.4 Use case prioritization

This section states the ranking in terms of priority of the each use case per use case diagram figure. The priorities are: Critical, Important and Nice to have.

- Fig 1.
 - Application services: Critical
 - Report services: Important
 - Notification services: Critical
 - User account management services: Critical

7.5 Use case/Services contracts

This section states the preconditions and postconditions of the each use case per use case diagram figure.

7.5.1 Preconditions

These are conditions that must be met by the system or user before they are allowed to use the use case.

- Fig 2.
 - New fellowship application service: Can only be accessed if new applications are open.
 - Fellowship renewal service: Can only be accessed if renewals are open.
 - Application progress viewer service: Can only be accessed if user logged in with correct security permissions.
- Fig 3.
 - Log in: If a user with the associated credentials has appropriate security role.
 - Create report: If user is logged in.
 - Open new report: If no report is currently open.
 - Select report data: If report is open and data is available for report.
 - Generate report: If data has been selected.
 - View report: If a report has been generated.
 - Export report: If user wants to export report.
 - To spreadsheet: If user wants to export report to a spreadsheet.
 - To pdf: If user wants to export report to a pdf.
- Fig 4.
 - Create notification: If requesting user is the system.
 - Specify recipient user account: If a notification is in its setup stage.
 - Specify message: If a notification is in its setup stage.
 - Send user account notification: If notification is ready to be sent.
 - Send email: If notification is ready to be sent.
- Fig 5.
 - Create new account: If requesting user has the appropriate security role.
 - Modify account: If requesting user has the appropriate security role or is the owner of the account.
 - Remove account: If requesting user has the appropriate security role.

- Fig 6.
 - View application progress: Can only be used if there are any applications made by the user.
- Fig 7.
 - Create prospective fellow account: If prospective fellow does not have an account.
 - Submit information: If all the application information is complete.
 - Create grant holder account: If grant holder does not have an account.
 - Create grant holder cv: If the grant holder does not have an NRF rating or does have never created a CV on the system before.
 - Submit application: If all the required information has been entered.
- Fig 8.
 - Open new renewal application: If prospective fellow has a fellowship that is renewable.
 - Submit report: If progress report is completed.
 - Submit renewal application: If all the required information for the renewal has been entered.
- Fig 9.
 - Create referee account: If the referee does not have an account.
 - Create report: If requesting user has the appropriate security role.
 - Submit referral report: If the referral report has been completed.
- Fig 10.
 - Application approval: If any finalised application is available for approval and the grant holder of the application falls under department the HOD is in charge of.
 - Create recommendation report: If the application has been approved.
 - Submit approved application's information: If the recommendation report has been completed.
- Fig 11.
 - Endorse application: If any approved application is available for endorsement and the grant holder of the application falls under faculty of which the Dean's office is in charge of.
 - Rank application: If the application has been endorsed.

- Create comment: If the application has been ranked.
- Submit endorsed application: If the required endorsement information has been completed.
- Fig 12.
 - Check eligibility: If any endorsed application is available for its eligibility check.
 - Deny: If the prospective fellow is older than 40 and has not obtained their PhD in the last 5 years or if the prospective fellow does not have a PhD.
 - Accept: If the prospective fellow is younger than 40 or is 40 and they have a PhD or if they have obtained a PhD in the last 5 years.
 - Finalise funding decision: If the meeting regarding the application has been concluded.
 - Deny: If the application's funding was denied.
 - Approve funding: If the application's funding was denied.
- Fig 13.
 - Create meeting: If any eligible applications are available.
 - Add endorsed applications: If any new applications that are eligible are available.
 - Add endorsed renewals: If any renewal applications that are eligible are available.
 - Record minutes of meeting: If the selected meeting has been setup.

7.5.2 Postconditions

These are conditions that must be met by the system and the data after the use case has been used.

- Fig 3.
 - Log in: The user has been authenticated and has the appropriate security role.
 - Open new report: A new report is active.
 - Select report data: The data for the active report is selected.
 - Generate report: The report is available for viewing.
 - View report: The report is available for export and must be visible.
- Fig 4.
 - Create notification: A possible notification is open for receiving its contents.

- Specify recipient user account: The notification has a a recipient.
- Specify message: The notification has a message.
- Send user account notification: The message is sent to the user.
- Send email: The message is sent the email associated with recipients user account.
- Fig 5.
 - Create new account: A new user account is added to the system.
 - Modify account: The specified user account is updated.
 - Remove account: The specified user account is removed from the system.
- Fig 6.
 - View application progress: The application progress of the specified user application is visible.
- Fig 7.
 - Create prospective fellow account: If prospective fellow has an account.
 - Create prospective fellow cv: The CV is created and associated with the prospective fellow and the application.
 - Specify grant holder: The grant holder’s contact information is associated with the application.
 - Specify referees: The referees’ contact information is associated with the application.
 - Submit information: The initial application data is complete. Referees are notified.
 - Create grant holder account: The grant holder has an account.
 - Create grant holder cv: The grant holder’s CV is associated with the application.
 - Complete application form: The application data is complete and the application is ready to be finalised.
 - Submit application: The application is now a finalised application and the HOD of the relative department is notified.
- Fig 8.
 - Open new renewal application: A new renewal is for a fellowship is open.
 - Log in: The user has been authenticated and has the appropriate security role.
 - Complete progress report: The progress report associated with the renewal.

- Submit report: The initial renewal information is complete. Grant holder is notified.
 - Complete renewal form: The renewal data complete and the renewal is ready to be finalised.
 - Submit renewal application: The renewal application is finalised and the HOD of the relative department is notified.
- Fig 9.
 - Create referee account: Referee has a user account.
 - Log in: The user has been authenticated and has the appropriate security role.
 - Create report: The report is complete and ready to be submitted.
 - Submit referral report: The referral report has been finalised and associated with the application and the Grant Holder of the application is notified.
- Fig 10.
 - Log in: The user has been authenticated and has the appropriate security role.
 - Deny: Application has status changed to denied.
 - Amend: Application is reopened and status changed to amend.
 - Notify grant holder: A notification is sent to the Grant holder of the application.
 - Approve: The application recommendation report becomes available for completion.
 - Create recommendation report: The recommendation report is associated with the application and the Approval is ready to be finalised.
 - Submit approved application's information: The application approval is finalised and the application is now a approved application and the Dean's Office of the relevant faculty is notified.
- Fig 11.
 - Log in: The user has been authenticated and has the appropriate security role.
 - Deny: The application's status is changed to denied.
 - Notify grant holder: A notification is sent to the Grant holder of the application.
 - Endorse: The application's endorsement information becomes available for completion.
 - Rank application: The application has a rank associated with it.
 - Create comment: The application has a endorsement comment associated with it.

- Submit endorsed application: The application endorsement is finalised and the application is now an endorsed application and the DRIS is notified.
- Fig 12.
 - Log in: The user has been authenticated and has the appropriate security role.
 - Deny: The application's status is changed to denied.
 - Notify grant holder: A notification is sent to the Grant holder of the application.
 - Accept: The application is ready for discussion and is now an eligible application.
 - Deny: The application's status is changed to denied.
 - Approve funding: The application is now a complete application.
 - Notify grant holder: A notification is sent to the Grant holder of the application.
 - Notify CSC: A notification is sent to the CSC.
 - Notify Finance: A notification is sent to the Finance department.
- Fig 13.
 - Create meeting: A new meeting is open for modification.
 - Add endorsed applications: An endorsed new application has been added to the agenda of the meeting.
 - Add endorsed renewals: An renewal application has been added to the agenda of the meeting.
 - Create pre-meeting documentation: Documentation complete and associated with meeting and the meeting is closed for modification.
 - Notify committee members: A notification is sent to all the committee members.
 - Record minutes of meeting: The meeting is finalised and it's minutes stored.

7.6.1 Overview

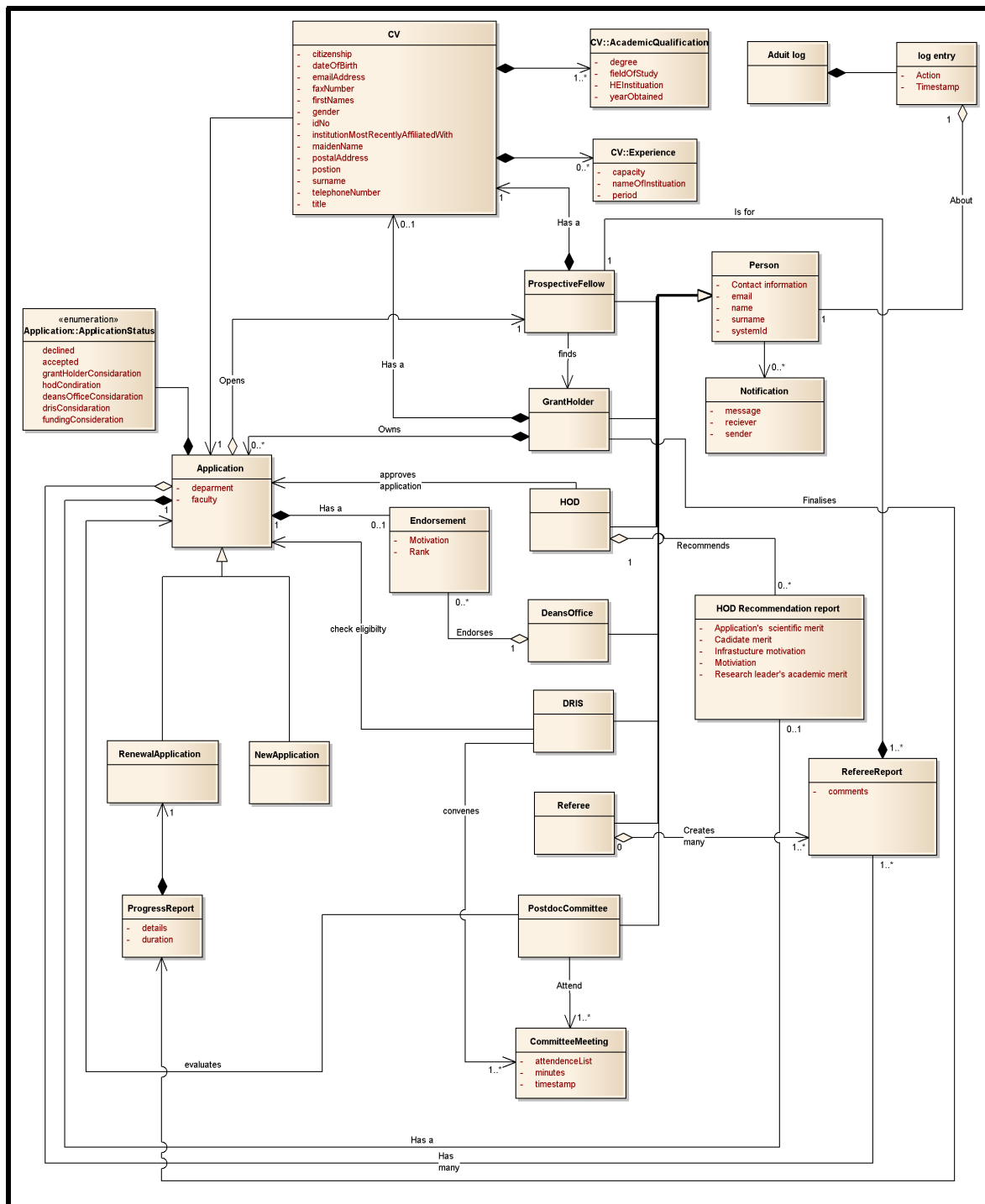


Figure 14: Overview of the data structures and relationships for the core domain objects of the system.

7.6.2 Persons

This object represents the stakeholders that will make use of the system. All stakeholders will have accounts which they use to log on to the system with a unique user id and a pre-defined or user specified password. The unique user id can either be a Peoplesoft Emplid number or a email address.

7.6.3 Grant holder

Grant holders are possibly rated researchers by the NRF and the system should not require the CV's of A and B rated researchers to be added to the system. The reason for this is that the CV's of such researchers are very long.

7.6.4 Application

Applications will contain the required info of a prospective fellow, e.g. CV and academic record, and who their researcher leader (grant holder) is. The status of the application will be accessible in reports for all stakeholders. The status will either be draft, pending (under consideration), denied or accepted. The status will contain details regarding to why it is in the current state.

7.6.5 Post-doctoral committee meetings

The post-doctoral committee will be assessing the applications and will evaluate and give an application a ranking.

8 Open Issues:

- Theft or loss of mobile devices
- User errors like typing errors
- How will an applicant be allocated a student number?
- Should the system treat a prospective fellow in a unique class or should all stakeholders be of the same class and be allocated different roles, as someone could work as a stakeholder but still want to apply?
- Automating a check for the rating of researchers.
- The CVs of A and B rated researchers was not added to save paper. Should we still not add it to keep it more convenient for the researchers?

9 Glossary:

- **CV** - Curriculum Vita
- **PDF** - Portable Document Format file
- **NRF** - National Research Foundation
- **API** - Application Programming Interface
- **Spreadsheet** - A special type of computer document that is used to represent data in rows and columns.
- **HTML** - Hyper Text Mark-up Language
- **Java EE** - Java Enterprise Edition
- **Use case** - A visual depiction of a service or group of services.
- **Application** - Both a renewal and new fellowship are seen as applications.
- **PhD** - A doctoral degree in a particular field of study.