**DoC Individual Project**

Use CATE

Shortlist 3 projects

Allocation in Early November

Assessment in June is team based

A second marker from the team is allocated in January

Project must be reviewed by February

Mid-may: Project health check-up

There can be stiff competition – Tips:

* Make a good impression with proposer
* Do some homework before the meeting
* Avoid shortlisting three popular projects

You can propose your own project

* Enter proposal on cate
* Find candidate supervisor
* They must agree and sign to supervise before it can be shortlisted

No need to shortlist any other project if own proposal is signed off.

Common Pitfalls:

* Choosing a project which is too easy
* Choosing a project which is too hard
  + Over/Under ambition is a common problem
  + Bare in mind the following
    - Subject matter
    - Technical difficulty
    - Scope
    - Risk
  + W.r.t. your interests, background experience and expertise
  + Technically difficulty and risk are taken into account when marks are awarded
* Starting too late
  + Only 30% of marks are awarded for technical achievement
  + Mark scheme assesses a range of other skills
    - Background research, context, planning (15%)
    - Management and organisation (25%)
    - Achievement (30%)
    - Report (30%)
  + Evaluation very important
  + Complete as much as possible before easter
  + MEng should aim to do all background work before Xmas
* Avoiding your supervisor
  + Good supervision will make any project better
  + Non-existent or sparse supervision usually leads to a bad project and mark
* Trying to do everything in one go
  + Things go wrong all the time
  + Break your project down as much as possible and identify milestones and fall-back positions in the event of problems
* Working part or full time for your local start-up
  + You cannot do both!
* Copy some or all of your project from the web!!!
  + Students who plagiarise the work of others, code or report, may leave with NO DEGREE
  + Use the work of others as much as necessary, but always cite sources and give credit
  + Project MUST display a substantial body of original work, no “surveys” or “documentation” projects

Project allocation:

I had only one choice and no-one else applied for project, why didn’t I get it!?

* Supervisor may have filled quota
* Supervisor may feel you are better suited to another project
* You didn’t list all three choices leading to constraints

Other tips:

Read distinguished projects on departmental web page and be inspired

www3.imperial.ac.uk/computing/teaching/ug/ug-distinguished-projects

Read past students advice on the wiki

https://wiki.imperial.ac.uk/display/docteaching/Past+Student+Advice

If you apply to a killer project, apply for a SET award

[www.setawards.org/set/index.php](http://www.setawards.org/set/index.php)

Extra:  
How things are designed

* Doesn’t count towards degree
* 0,1,2 courses at the RCA
* Introduction by Nick de Leon, 311, Thurday 10th October

@doc4thyear

Google calendar service