University of Glasgow

MSc Projects in Statistics 2018/19

Prof Duncan Lee

Project aims

The key aims of your project are:

- Development of graduate attributes:
  - Independent working.
  - Critical thinkers.
  - Resourceful and Responsible.
  - Effective Communicators.
- Training towards independence and development of transferrable skills.
- Use of all the knowledge acquired during your MSc in a real-data application.

Workload and holidays

- Students are expected to work full-time, e.g. roughly 30-35 hours per week, on their project throughout the 12 week summer project.
- Our advice is that you are here in Glasgow working throughout the duration of the project, and that holidays are kept to a minimum.
- The project is worth 60 credits, a third of your entire degree.

Project timeline and grading

- The projects run between 10^{th} June and 30^{th} August.
- The deadline for submitting projects is 12 noon on 30^{th} August, and submissions are done electronically via Moodle.
- The project grade is made up of
  - **Dissertation - 30^{th} August**
    - Main report excluding advanced extra chapter - 50%.
    - Advanced extra chapter - 30%.
  - **Interim assessment - 29^{th} July - 9^{th} August**
    - Short presentation and viva - 20%.

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Possible dissertation structure

- Chapter 1 - Introduction to the problem.
- Chapter 2 - Description of the methods.
- Chapter 3 - Standard analysis of the data.
- Chapter 4 - Advanced analysis of the data.
- Chapter 5 - Conclusions and discussion.
- Appendix - R code that produces your results, in the form of a separate `.R` file.

Dissertation rules

- The project report can be written in any report writing software, such as R-markdown, MS Word / LaTeX/ LibreOffice etc.
- The report should be a **maximum of 20 pages in 12 point font**, excluding title page and references.
- The only addition to this 20 page limit is the the `R` code, which should be provided as a separate `.R` file.
- We would expect that around 5 of these 20 pages are dedicated to the advanced extra chapter.
- The dissertations will be double marked by members of the project team.

Interim assessment rules

- A 30 minute slot for each student with 2 members of the project supervisory team. 20 minutes for the assessment and 10 minutes for a brief supervisory meeting.
- During this session students will have to give a short presentation of at most 10 minutes (suggested maximum of 10 slides) on their project results so far.
- This will be followed up with a 10 minute viva which includes questions on all aspects of their project (including `R` code).

Project staff

- **Project coordinator** - Dr. Manuele Leonelli, contact him at `stats-msc-project-coordinator@glasgow.ac.uk`

- **Supervision team** - are mainly the following people:
  - Craig Anderson
  - Duncan Lee
  - Vincent Macaulay
  - Claire Miller
  - Gary Napier
  - Ruth O'Donnell

  You will each be supervised by a number of these people throughout your project.

Supervision model

The supervision model has been designed to encourage independent working, which is what you will need to do in the workplace. Your supervision consists of the following elements:

- Weekly drop-in sessions.
- 3 individual project meetings.
- A skills week with tutorials.
- Peer support network.

Drop in sessions

The weekly drop in sessions are staffed by members of the project team and others, and are on:

- Tuesday mornings from 10am - 12noon (rooms 110/117).
- Thursday afternoons 2pm-4pm (room 117).

Room 117 is the main room and 110 will only be used if we need the space. There are no Thursday sessions on the weeks of the individual project meetings. A full list of sessions is in the handout.

Individual project meetings

The three sessions are:

- **Week 2: 17th June – 21st June** for 30 minutes, the focus is on the analysis plan.
- **Weeks 5 and 6: 8th July – 19th July** for 20 minutes, the focus is on the analysis to date.
- **Weeks 8 and 9: 29th July – 9th August** for 30 minutes. 20 minutes of this is the interim assessment and 10 minutes is a supervisory meeting, focusing on any issues that remain for the project.

Sign up sheets for these meetings are on Moodle. You need to book a slot and then keep to it. You are also expected to upload brief notes of the meeting to Moodle within 3 days.

Analysis plan

- One of your first tasks in the project is to write a statistical analysis plan, which lays out how you plan to analyse your data.
- This analysis plan will be the main point of discussion at the first individual meeting, so make sure you write it before the meeting.
- A tutorial guide to writing a statistical analysis plan is on Moodle, so please go and read it!

Skills week

A week of courses on key project skills such as:

- Scientific Writing.
- Bibliography Writing.
- Writing Maths.
- Presenting R Output.

A full list with dates / times is in the handout, and for all but the bibliography writing session you need to sign up for a slot on Moodle as the courses are run twice due to large student numbers.

Peer support network

- **Peer Support Forum** - on Moodle where you may ask general questions about the projects to your peers.
- **Peer review** - of a short draft (maximum of 5 pages) of your project will take place around week 6/7 (19th-26th July). Details about this are on the course Moodle page.

The peer review feedback is not open to students doing Datalab projects due to confidentiality issues.

Other contact with staff

Projects are meant to be done independently, so normally, no extra contact with the supervisory team outside the ones listed above, will be allowed, in the interests of fairness to all students.

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Locations for student studying

The following locations are available for you to work on your project.

- Lab 117 Mathematics and Statistics building - all summer.
- The library - all summer.
- Lab 418 Boyd Orr building - Monday 10th June until Friday 21st June and Thursday 1st August until Friday 30th August.
- Lab 420 Boyd Orr building - Monday 24th June until Friday 30th August.