

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Description

Students who suffer from personal problems usually fill out the *Extenuating Circumstances Form (ECF)* which then allows the examination board (the scrutiny committee) to consider their problems. The process usually begins with the student submitting the form and being reviewed if the circumstance is true and if there is enough evidence to support this. In situations where there is not enough evidence, the committee asks the student to provide more evidence and then processes the form accordingly, for example the committee may ask the student to present a death certificate. The form at this point has detailed information about the personal problem but from here on, only the general problem (without including details of the specific problem the student is facing) is taken ahead to the other departments and also added to the Students Record to allow leniency in terms of examinations and other assignments. Information regarding the ECFs can be found on the University Of Sheffield's page. [?]

## 1.2 Project

Building a system which can achieve confidentiality, ease of access, and reduce the paperwork required by storing the data on an encrypted and secure database will be the main basis of this project. The project should also allow access from different web based systems and keep the data confidential at the same time.

# 2 Analysis

## 2.1 Problem

Once the forms have been filled they need to be duplicated to various other systems, this creates confusion and reduces confidentiality. Instances where

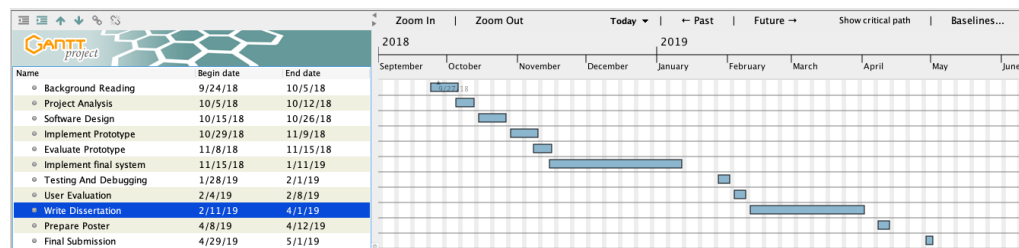
a student submits multiple ECF forms or after recovery re-submit another form disorients the gathering of these forms and creates a lot of confusion. Forms are sometimes required for an appeal and multiple/lost forms produces a biased outcome.

## 2.2 Possible Techniques

Django, a Python based web developing system would be a great tool for achieving this system. It is built to be one of the most secure language compared to other languages such as .Net, ASP, Java, PHP or Ruby[?][?]. A web based system would ensure that everybody can access the system and find previous records without having to re-submit a new form and at the same time with Django's security the forms shall remain secure and confidential. With Python allowing and sharing data between the already existing system will also be possible.

# 3 Plan Of Action

## 3.1 Gantt Chart



## 3.2 Plan

As shown on the Gantt chart above, the background research and reading has already started and I soon plan to start learning how to use Python to code with Django and do any required analysis. Following the learning of the language I shall begin coding it. By the end of this semester I should have completed at least 75% of the coding and by mid January the final system should be up and running. Every system requires Testing and Debugging

which will continue from mid Jan till the beginning of February. I'll have approximately two and a half months then to start and complete my dissertation by the beginning of April. Lastly I'll use the first week of April to complete the poster required and make any last changes required.