

This page is for all MSc Computer Science students, because all of you will complete the MSc Project module. It is the most important module, because it is the biggest one (60 credits), and it will most probably decide your grade for the degree (Pass, Commendation, or Distinction). Therefore, it is important that you make a good and quick start for it.

**The MSc CS Project is an individual piece of work, and it is the biggest piece of work that you have done so far.**

**IMPORTANT!!!! All students will be enrolled on Canvas on the module 7COM1039 - MSc Advanced Computer Science Project. You will all do the projects according to your course, and on Student Record you are registered on the specific Project module for your course. Only on Canvas, all students are joined on one module for management purposes, rather than putting them on seven different modules. So, please read the information on the Project module page, because it explains it.**

## **1. When do I start the MSc Project module?**

When you will start the MSc Project module will depend on your study route.

- If you are on the Placement route, then your MSc Project module will be after you complete your Placement. As all Placements are within the period June - May every academic year, then your MSc Project will start by the end of May, and it will be done in Semester C, May - September every year. So, if you have finished your Placement, then you know that your next module is the MSc Project module. The HH Admin Office will enrol you on the Project by the end of May.
- If you are on the One-Year route, you will start your Project after you complete the taught modules (120 credits). For students who start the course in September, the Project will be in Semester C, unless you fail too many modules, and you can't start the Project yet. For students who start the course in January on the One-Year route, then the Project is again after you complete all modules (120 credits), which will be the January after, in Semester B.
- If you are on the Advanced Research route, then the module will be completed alongside the Advanced Research modules, over two semesters of study. This is to not exceed 60 credits per semester.
- All the above information can be found on the Programme Specification document, pages 23-36, which show the course structure for all courses of the programme. Download the Programme Spec from the main page of this site, and study it carefully.
- You can access the Project module on Canvas even if you cannot see the module on the front page. [How to access modules on Canvas-2.pdf](#)Download [How to access modules on Canvas-2.pdf](#)

## **2. What am I going to do for the MSc Project module?**

The choice of the project is yours, so do not expect your supervisor to tell you what project you will do. All students do individual projects of their choice, and you must think about the project long time before it starts, not when the module starts. By that time it will be late. You need to think ahead, do a lot, and a lot of reading on your field of study, to choose a good project for yourself. Example project topics, will also be provided by the module leader for students who cannot decide on a topic themselves.

Some MSc PProject ideas can be found

here: <https://herts.instructure.com/courses/68988/pages/msc-project-ideas>

### 3. How do I start the MSc Project?

If you have chosen the topic for the project, then your job is to write a Detailed Project Proposal about what you are going to do for it. This Project Proposal will be submitted to your supervisors, so they can give you feedback on your choice, or if your proposal is not good enough for an MSc Project.

Therefore, you need to work on this Detailed Project Proposal before the module starts, so when your module leader assigns you a supervisor, you are ready to show your Project idea to your supervisor.

### 4. What makes a good MSc Project idea?

#### An MSc CS Project is an investigative project

The type of the idea depends on your field of study. So, Data Analytics students, of course, may do a different project from the Networking students. Most of the time the ideas overlap two or three fields of study. So, you can be an MSc Cybersecurity student, but you can do a Data Analytics project on a Cybersecurity topic.

However, it is extremely important to understand the following. Read very carefully, in order not to make mistakes about your MSc Project, and get a low grade:

- An Msc Project is not just about developing an application, or implementing an algorithm. Implementation projects are good only for BSc students. **You are not BSc students, so the implementation part is only a small part of your Project. The biggest part of the MSc Project is the investigative part, where you have to run your implemented artefact, or code, or app, and you will collect data while running and testing it.** This is your primary research part. Then, your data that you have collected by running the application that you have built, will be compared, analysed, and evaluated against the data that you have collected from your secondary research (Literature Review).
- So, you have understood now, that it is not just about building something. It is about doing secondary research to collect secondary data, developing an app, running it, collecting your own data from your own primary research, in order to then compare, analyse, evaluate, draw conclusions,

and make recommendations. Yes, it is not easy, but that is why your MSc Project is worth 60 credits, and 600 hours of work.

- **If you do not do the investigative part above, most probably you will not get a good grade, so read again the above, until you understand it. Also, there is a section below, which explains it in stages. Carry on reading below.**

## 5. Can I do a project from the industry?

The answer is obviously YES. We want all the projects that student do to have an industry based scenario, where the practical link to an industry problem is obvious and clear. As explained above, the project topic is your choice, not our choice. We are not interested if you have a sponsor or not. You might have a sponsor, you might not have one. You might get funding, you might not. It is not our concern. Our concern is that you have a project to do, and you have the opportunity to learn and achieve a good mark. If you have a real client or sponsor, it is not the job of your supervisor to deal with them. You have to keep them out. You deal with them. That is between you and your sponsor or client, and the university will not talk to them. That is for legal purposes, because if the university is involved with the client or sponsor, then there are legal and reputation matters to consider. So, keep the university out of this.

Your project just have to follow the guidelines of an MSc Project - to be an investigative project, where you tackle a real problem, develop an application, and then test and run this application to get results. It is the results which you obtain that matter, not just the application itself. You will need to analyse the results that you have obtained, in order to evaluate the effectiveness, the accuracy, the efficiency, or the appropriateness of the method, model, algorithm, or software application that you have investigated.

If you are not in the position to comment, conclude, and make a recommendation on one or more of the above - the effectiveness, the accuracy, the efficiency, or the appropriateness of the method, model, algorithm, or software application that you have investigated - then you have not completed your MSc Project in full.

## 6. Do the project requirements change if I am doing One-Year, Placement, or Advanced Research route?

The level of your MSc Project and what you do for it has nothing to do with the words after MSc Computer Science. An MSc project is a level 7 project, and it is the same, not matter if you are on the Placement route, or Advanced Research route. In essence, all three degrees are the same, they have the same value as MSc degrees, and the only difference is how they help you with your career choice.

**The short answer is - your MSc project cannot and will not be just a development project, because a development project is a Level 6 project, suitable for BSc students.**

Of course, nobody will stop you from doing a development project for your MSc degree, but you cannot expect a good grade for it.

So, read again the information on point 4 - What makes a good MSc Project, and follow the guidelines.

## **7. What are the stages of my Project then?**

The stages of your MSc Project are outlined in the attached document below. It is just one page, to make it easy for you to understand the Project, but each point on that page is hard work from your part, in order to complete the Project successfully.

[MSc Project Explained.docx](#) [Download MSc\\_Project\\_Explained.docx](#)

## **8. Okay, then, now that I know about my MSc Project from the beginning to the end, how do I start with the Detailed Project Proposal?**

Writing the Detailed Project Proposal (DPP) is not difficult. The difficulty is in selecting your project, and understanding all the points above. How to write a DPP is explained below, in a separate document, which shows the structure of the proposal and what goes into every section of it.

[Detailed Project Proposal Instructions v2.docx](#) [Download Detailed Project Proposal Instructions\\_v2.docx](#)

Now, you know everything about your MSc Project module. Go through the above materials again and again, and start the work. An early start is extremely important.