**IMAT3451 Final Year Project: Getting Started**

# **Finding a Project**

The final year project is a significant piece of work and the earlier you can get started on it, the better. You need to have your project and supervisor agreed by the beginning of the Autumn Term. Thus, you should be trying to find a project in the months before the start of your final year.

There are two main ways in which to find a project: from the list of proposals, or by sourcing your own proposal. Either way, note that **it is your responsibility to find a project. You also need to agree on supervision as soon as possible and by the end of week 1 the latest.**

Some programme teams will source and allocate projects specific to their programme (e.g., Maths, Forensics). If you are on one of these courses, you need to choose a project from the list of project ideas that refers specifically to the course you attend. Similarly, if you are not on one of these courses, you should not choose a project that is specifically designed for these courses.

# **List of proposals**

A list of proposals may be found on the module Blackboard shell (Project Ideas link on the left)

From this you can identify:

* A project proposal that interests you: email the proposer to find out if the project is still available.
* A proposer whose projects are in an area that interests you: email the proposer with your ideas for a possible project.

# **Sourcing your own proposal**

Perhaps you have an idea of your own, or your placement employer has proposed a project. In these cases you need to discuss the idea with your supervisor to see whether it is feasible, and in what way(s) it may need to be changed to ensure that it is a suitable for a final year project.

* If you are still on placement, your visiting tutor is a good person with whom to discuss your project idea.

Else:

* Look at the list of proposals to find a proposer whose proposals are in a similar area to the idea you have; or a member of staff you have previously encountered on your course who you would like to have as a supervisor: email them.

Else:

* Contact your course leader to discuss your idea.
* Contact your supervisor to discuss your idea.

Note that you must be guided by staff as to whether any proposal of your own is suitable: if it is not, you will have to choose one from the list supplied. Do ***not*** start working on a project unless you have had it approved by a member of staff.

You may well contact more than one proposer about more than one project, while in the process of trying to choose one. But once you have made a decision about which project you want to pursue you MUST:

* Confirm with that proposer which project you are going to do as each project can only be allocated to one student.

AND

* Inform any other proposers you have contacted that you are not going to do one of their projects after all.

# **Allocation of Supervisors**

This year supervisors will be allocated hopefully in September. Supervisors will be allocated by programme. If you have already agreed project supervision with a member of staff, ask the member of staff concerned to confirm this with the module leader ASAP. You will be alerted when supervisor allocation has taken place. You will find your supervisor listed in the Grade Centre.

Note that no guarantees may be made until induction week as there may be some unavoidable changes due to staff timetable changes. Proposers may act as clients for the projects, so it is not necessary that they must supervise their proposed project; however, they may consult on it.

# **Early Preparation**

Formal project supervision will start at the beginning of the Autumn Term of your final year. However, there are some things that you can do to get a head start on your project:

* Read suitable texts about how to do a final year project - see the Reading List on the Blackboard shell.
* Revise/extend your knowledge of technologies/tools/techniques you expect to use in your project. For example, systems analysis and design techniques; database design; specific programming languages/software environments.
* Once you have found a project, your supervisor might have other, specific, suggestions.