

## ASSIGNMENT BRIEF: DISSERTATION SPECIFICATION

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The aim of Assignment 4 is to assess your ability to develop a research proposal in an area of study that is linked to your MSc dissertation. Your mark for Assignment 4 accounts for 40% of CS908.

### 1 FORMAT OF THE ASSIGNMENT

You must write a research proposal for the development of your dissertation project. Good research proposals typically include at least:

1. Introduction (Background, Aims, Problem Statement, etc.)
2. Related Work (Academic Research, Existing Systems, etc.)
3. Research Processes (Research Approach / Methodology, etc.)
4. Project Management (Timeline, Constraints, Risk, etc.)
5. Progress - (Overview of Progress, etc.)
6. Conclusion - (Summary, Future Work)

You do not need to follow the above as a strict table of contents; adapt the list to the characteristics of your specific research proposal.

There is no word limit. However, around 8-12 pages would be typical for a research proposal of this kind. It is recommended you use LaTeX and you must have an accurate, well-formatted bibliography.

**By now you must have met your supervisor; you are encouraged to ask for advice from your supervisor while developing your specification.**

### 2 SUBMISSION AND MARKING

You must submit a PDF file via Tabula. The deadline is noon on **20th February**.

Late submissions will be subject to the University penalty of 5% a day. All cases of plagiarism will be treated in accordance with University procedures.

The reports will be marked by the module organizer and your dissertation supervisor. The marking will use the following criteria:

Criteria	Mark
Problem Definition and Literature Review	/20
Research Methodology and Viability	/40
Project Plan: Time Management and Risk Analysis	/10
Communication Skills	/30