

Fabian Gilson

# Software Engineering Research Project

SENG402 - Kick-off

*Lecture 1 - Whole Year, 2023*

University of Canterbury | Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha  
Computer Science and Software Engineering



# Course objectives

# Outline and Resources

What is SENG402 about?

- demonstrate your **research** and **problem-solving** skills
  - **investigate** existing (academic) solutions and approaches
  - **identify** risks and benefits, and apply techniques for **risk mitigation**
- **plan, analyse, develop, deliver**, and **communicate**

Learn is the first source of communication

- slide decks under Lecture material
- times and dates of lectures under Course schedule
- everything related to the projects under Projects
- assignments under Submissions (with deadlines)
- lots of resources available under Resources
- questions & answers under the FAQ (may be updated as we go)

# Expectations

We expect you to be

- **proactive** and **organised** in your work with **weekly progress**
- **professional** in your behaviour towards your supervisor and partners
- **reasonable** in your objectives, but **challenge yourself**
- **honest** in your communication (when you fall behind)

This project is your last personal masterpiece before leaving UC

- apply **what you've learned** in software development and project management
- demonstrate both **scientific** and **engineering** skills
- do **not let you be tempted** to take the easy path
- all deliverables must comply to **state-of-the-art** quality criteria

⚠ Failing to **engage** with the course **on a regular basis** may see you **fail the course**

# Three reports (increasing weight)

Project plan [*10%, end of week 5, one week grace period*]

- list of concrete **objectives**
- descriptive plan with **milestones**
- **risk assessment** of each milestone

Intermediate report [*20%, end of week 12, one week grace period*]

- updated **objectives** and **plan**
- discussion of **related work**
- **conception** of solution and early **results**

Final report [*30%, end of week 24, one week grace period*]

- **same as above** except the plan
- with complete **results**, their **evaluation/s**, and a **discussion**

See Instructions document (under Projects) for detailed guidelines and rubric

# Public communication

You will prepare a poster for the College Showcase

- sum-up your project in a **visual** way
- intended for a **public** audience, e.g., other disciplines and industry
- will be checked and **printed for you**
- a collaborative tutorial will be organised in term 4

Grand finale for the showcase day

- public **presentation** to your peers, supervisors, partners and... whānau
- individual or in group (depending on your project)
- you can also make a **public demo**, if you want to
- full day with drinks and nibbles, date to be confirmed

You will receive **clear guidelines** closer to the deadlines

# Practical details

# Timetable

Officially, timetabling shows

- lectures on Wednesdays 9AM-10AM (should show the actual lecture days only)
- workshops on Thursdays 9AM-1PM

Lectures are there for

- general advice sessions and heartbeats
- tutorials on, e.g., literature review, poster design
- usually reminded on Learn a few days before (keep a look on the [Announcements](#))

Next “speed dating” is for you to

- meet the staff and industry partners to discuss projects
- so **come prepared** with your questions
- you only have that one opportunity to make up your mind

# Project milestones and assessments

Lectures (in Meremere 526 unless specified)

- 23/02 Q&A with supervisors ()
- 01/03 project allocation
- 08/03 research plan (part 1, JL214)
- 15/03 research plan (part 2)
- 26/04 feedback on plan
- 19/07 feedback on progress reports
- 13/09 heartbeat and next steps
- 20/09 tutorial on poster design

Submissions (usually one week grace period)

- 26/02 project selection (firm)
- 24/03 project plan
- 02/06 progress report
- 15/09 presentation abstract (firm)
- 02/10 poster (firm)
- 13/10 CSSE Showcase TBC
- ??/10 College poster Showcase TBC
- 20/10 Final report
- 20/10 Demonstration (to be arranged by you)

# Support if needed

## Practical and technical support

- virtual machines on demand, ask **early**
- TAS the request to programmers, email [tas@cosc.canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:tas@cosc.canterbury.ac.nz)

## If you need other resources (e.g., hardware, software)

- for industry projects, talk to them first
- for staff projects, we have a bit of budget for it, so talk to me **early on**

## For anything else

- first line is your **supervisor**
- then, you (hopefully) know where my office is
- or you can flick me an email



**What's next?**

# Selection Process

Select at least 6 projects you'd like to join

- go to the **Projects** section on Learn to see all projects
- come to the workshop session (**tomorrow!**)
- ask questions to the staff and industry **during** these sessions
- there is also a **forum**, but don't wait until the last minute

Fill in the **selection form** you'll find on Learn by **Sunday 26 February 6PM**

- ensure you meet the prerequisites (remember to be **professional**)
- if you have no preferences for a sub-project, indicate the **project number**
- if you have preferences for sub-projects indicate the **sub-project number**

Any admin questions, come back to me