

COMPUTING HONOURS PROJECT (COMP10034)

INTERIM REPORT - GUIDANCE AND ADVICE

The Interim Report should be between 2,500-3000 words in length. The submission date is **Friday 23rd November 2018, 23:59 – submitted to Turnitin.**

The Interim Report is split into 3 main sections.

(i) Literature/Technical Review/Background

This part of the Interim Report should contain a critical investigation of the appropriate literature that covers your Honours Project area which should include academic and non-academic sources as appropriate. The importance of the Literature/Technical Review is that it:

- Provides academic underpinning for your work
- Defines key terms and concepts
- Identifies what previous work has been undertaken in the area
- Provides basis for identifying and clarifying research questions
- Constructs an argument that draws upon your own ideas and various sources to support those ideas.

The Literature/Technical Review will provide you with the context in which to plan, implement and present your own work. Your Honours Project topic is very unlikely to be completely new. You need to find out what has already been done and said and then fit your work into this overall collection of work. The Literature/Technical Review will help you define your research questions, as well as key themes and issues to be investigated as part of your Honours Project.

If, due to the nature of your Hons Project, a literature review is not relevant to your area, you should discuss with your supervisor what should be included in its place – for example, whether that be some sort of technical review or market review relevant to your area. Your supervisor will be able to advise you.

(ii) Preliminary Work/Creative Accomplishments

Depending on the type of project this can cover areas such as:

- Initial work on the Research Methodology – what approach are they adopting and why? Use relevant references to justify your choice. Initial work on developing your approach to interviews and questionnaires showing that you know about best practices in the area. A discussion of how the interview approach will be implemented – examples of questions and themes to be explored. Examples of

how any questionnaires have been developed. There might be some pilot study that has taken place to test out the questionnaires. It could also include details of any organisations and stakeholders that students have engaged with as part of their Honours Project so far.

- If the project is more of a development project then this section might include a discussion of the approach that is being adopted in relation to design and areas such as user requirements. You might have used interviews and questionnaires as part of the capturing user requirements. Details of any initial designs can be included – storyboards, sample screens if appropriate to the project. Some work may have taken place in terms of evaluation and selection of appropriate platforms/software on which to develop the prototype or simulation and this can be included in this section of the report.

So after any initial literature review or background to the Honours Project (which is the first section of the Interim Report) this second section should contain what has been undertaken in terms of getting the primary research underway or the design and development of the prototype underway.

At the stage of the submission of the Interim Report students should have some preliminary primary research, or preliminary design/development work to report on for this section.

(iii) Progress and Future Planned Work

This section contains a reflection on progress to date (up to the hand in of the Interim Report):

- How you have managed their Honours Project.
- Examples of Pert and/or Gantt charts that may have been developed.
- How you have used the project management reporting forms.
- Highlight any problems or issues you may have had to face in terms of the management of the project and how you have addressed these.
- Include an outline plan of the final Hons Project Report – e.g. chapters, key headings/subheadings.

Also in this section there should be a discussion and project plan of what activities, outputs and deliverables need to be addressed from the Interim Report submission date until the actual submission date of the final Honours Project in Term 2 (29th March 2019).

Again Gantt or Pert charts can be used as well as a discussion of how the primary research will be addressed or design, development and testing addressed post submission of the Interim Report. Also in this section students might also include an initial outline structure of main chapter headings and key sections to be addressed in relation to their final Honours Project report itself.