

Computing Honours Project

(COMP10034)

Lecture 1

Module Introduction & Overview

Computing Honours Project

(COMP10034)

Mark Stansfield (Module Coordinator)

E203 (Paisley Campus)

mark.stansfield@uws.ac.uk

0141 848 3963

Computing Honours Project

This is a **double module** running throughout Terms 1 and 2

Worth 40 credits = 400 hours = around **13 hours a week (at least) over 7 months**

Considered to be **most important component** of Hons Year

Last year nearly **45% of students** achieved a **Grade A (70%+)** in Hons Project

Computing Honours Project

Previous years' marks

2016/17

162 Students

A1 – 3

A2 – 12

A3 – 42

B1 – 48

B2 – 23

C – 14

FAIL – 20

2017/18

136 Students

A1 – 6

A2 – 14

A3 – 40

B1 – 24

B2 – 18

C – 7

FAIL – 16

Computing Honours Project

Involves a **substantial individual investigation** into chosen area

Can involve a **detailed research based investigative** type of project (depending on your programme), or

Can involve development of **substantial piece of software/prototype** (all development programmes must undertake this)

Any software/prototype is a '**means to an end**' – **used to investigate some issue / theory / concept / idea**

Computing Honours Project

Aims are to...

- Demonstrate the capacity for **sustained independent thought** and **high-quality work** fulfilling an agreed specification
- Demonstrate ability to **analyse**, **synthesise** and **creatively** apply what has been learnt in your course
- Develop and demonstrate ability to **generate initiatives**, **set goals** and systematically achieve them
- Develop and demonstrate ability to present work **orally** and in **writing** and **critically appraise** work undertaken

Computing Honours Project

Provides you with opportunity to '**showcase**' your skills and knowledge to potential employers

Companies have contacted the University showing a keen interest in work being undertaken in Hons Projects

Key Deliverables

Project Specification

Fri 28th September 2018 (End Week 4)

Interim Report

Draft to Supervisor by end of Week 10 (Term 1)

Submitted by **Friday 23rd November 2018**

Presentation / Poster Presentations

Weeks 6, 7 and 8 of Term 2

Final Honours Project Report

Submitted by **Friday 29th March 2019**

Breakdown of Marks

Project Management (10%)

(Includes documentation produced from Supervisor meetings – agenda, minutes, action plan etc)

Interim Report (10%)

(2500-3000 words)

Presentation / Poster Presentation (10%)

(15 minutes plus 5-10 minutes questions)

Final Hons Report (70%)

(10000-15000 words)

Word count depends on type of project
i.e. developmental vs investigative
(discuss with your supervisor)

Computing Honours Project

- If circumstances outside your control affect your assessment you need to be aware of **Extenuating Circumstances Statement (ECS)**
- See **UWS website** for forms, guidance etc
- Keep your supervisor, year/programme leader and myself informed

- <https://www.uws.ac.uk/current-students/supporting-your-studies/exams-assessment-appeals/academic-appeals-extenuating-circumstances/>

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the UWS website. The URL in the address bar is <https://www.uws.ac.uk/current-students/supporting-your-studies/exams-assessment-appeals/academic-appeals-extenuating-circumstances/>. The page features a green header with the UWS logo and navigation menus. The main content area has a large green banner with the text "ACADEMIC APPEALS & EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES". Below the banner is a breadcrumb trail: HOME > CURRENT STUDENTS > SUPPORTING YOUR STUDIES > EXAMS, ASSESSMENT & APPEALS > ACADEMIC APPEALS & EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES. On the left, there is a sidebar with links: "Back to EXAMS, ASSESSMENT & APPEALS", "Exam results & GPA", and "Academic Appeals & Extenuating Circumstances" (highlighted in red). The main content area contains the title "ACADEMIC APPEALS & EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES" and a paragraph explaining the process: "The University recognises that, from time to time, you may encounter issues which may prevent you from being able to submit or undertake an assessment. Where this is the case, you can submit an Extenuating Circumstances Statement (ECS) for consideration. The ECS will be forwarded to the University's Subject Panel who will take account of this declaration in recording your module marks." Below this is the section "Extenuating Circumstances Statements (ECS)". At the bottom, there is a cookie notice: "By using www.uws.ac.uk you agree to our Website Terms of Use and Cookie Policy. We use cookies to offer you a better browsing experience, analyse site traffic and user behaviour. Read about how we use cookies and how you can manage them on our Cookie Policy page. The content of our Privacy Notice has recently been updated to reflect recent legal changes (the General Data Protection Regulation)." and a "CLOSE" button. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the date as 31/08/2018 and the time as 09:50.

University of the West of Scotland (UWS) logo and navigation menus are visible. The main heading is "ACADEMIC APPEALS & EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES".

Breadcrumb trail: HOME > CURRENT STUDENTS > SUPPORTING YOUR STUDIES > EXAMS, ASSESSMENT & APPEALS > ACADEMIC APPEALS & EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

Left sidebar navigation:

- Back to EXAMS, ASSESSMENT & APPEALS
- Exam results & GPA
- Academic Appeals & Extenuating Circumstances (highlighted)

Main content area:

ACADEMIC APPEALS & EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

The University recognises that, from time to time, you may encounter issues which may prevent you from being able to submit or undertake an assessment. Where this is the case, you can submit an Extenuating Circumstances Statement (ECS) for consideration. The ECS will be forwarded to the University's Subject Panel who will take account of this declaration in recording your module marks.

Extenuating Circumstances Statements (ECS)

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Buttons: X CLOSE

Computing Honours Project

***** Resits at Hons level are Capped at 40%*****

Successful ECS cases are not capped

Where do I start?

Start thinking about the **Hons Project Specification** form (electronic copies on Moodle site)

Approach potential **Supervisors** about Hons Project ideas you might have, or

Look at the **list of ideas and proposals** from staff – see Moodle site for updates

Start now – the Project Specification form does take time to complete properly and usually involves at least 2-3 meetings with the Supervisor

Where do I start?

Generally a good idea to **play to your strengths** when selecting an area

Think about **possible jobs** you might want to apply for and the type of skills/knowledge being sought

Do you have **access to organisations** or contacts you can use for your primary research or testing and evaluation of any prototype?

What kind **software packages and/or hardware** are you going to need for your Honours Project?

Where do I start?

Hons Project Specifications are reviewed by Programme/Year Leader, Moderator and an External Examiner

Amendments may be required if issues are identified with a Hons Project Specification

The Hons Project must be achievable in the **timeframe**, of **sufficient depth** for Hons level, and be **relevant to your course** – your **Supervisor** will advise on this

Where do I start?

Academic staff are very busy and there is a limit to how many Hons Projects they can supervise

It is not always possible to get your 1st choice of Supervisor

The **earlier you start** the more chance you have of getting the Hons Project and Supervisor you want

Supervisor and Moderator

Supervisor provides **guidance, advice** and **feedback** throughout Terms 1 and 2 and marks your deliverables

You should meet with your Supervisor regularly (at least every 2 weeks, probably more at the beginning)

The **Moderator** checks and signs your Project Specification, as well as second marks your deliverables

The **Moderator** can be consulted for advice and guidance where appropriate

Completing your Hons Project Specification Form

Selecting a topic

You can use ideas from your Research Methods in Computing module if applicable

Must be relevant to your programme/course – must have suitable technical and/or development content

Must be of sufficient depth and challenge to constitute Honours Level work

Consult your programme leader if in doubt

Completing your Hons Project Specification Form

Selecting a topic

Don't just seek to undertake some 'waffly' big essay with a survey of a few mates

What is the deliverable/output of the project?

Why is it relevant/important?

What is the technical or development component?

How is this going to be undertaken/achieved?

Completing your Hons Project Specification Form

Conduct some initial background work

Identify relevant references/books/reports and pull out key points that will provide basis for your work

Identify equipment, hardware, software required if you are developing a prototype and that you will have sufficient access to it

Completing your Hons Project Specification Form

Conduct some initial background work

If you are conducting research with an organisation(s) or it involves participants check now that they are willing to take part in your research

Don't assume they will participate only to find out that this is not the case 4 months down the line

Completing your Hons Project Specification Form

Marking Scheme

Your supervisor will advise you on this

It should be balanced so that the majority of the marks cover the most challenging part of the work

(e.g. primary research, analysis of data or detailed design, development and testing of prototype etc)

Completing your Hons Project Specification Form

Marking Scheme

Depending on the type of Hons Project being undertaken, marking scheme elements can include:

Introduction

Literature review

Primary Research – Methodology

Analysis of results

Recommendations and Conclusions

Critical Appraisal

Completing your Hons Project Specification Form

Marking Scheme

Or could be for example:

Introduction

Background Information

Requirements and Design

Development

Implementation and Evaluation

Conclusions and Recommendations

Critical Appraisal

Completing your Hons Project Specification Form

Critical Appraisal

This where you step back and reflect upon the whole Hons Project process and experience

This is essential for self-reflection and PDP and should be included in all Hons Projects in some way

Completing your Hons Project Specification Form

Critical Appraisal

Can cover areas such as:

How has what you have learnt on your programme influenced or shaped your Hons Project?

What have you learnt from undertaking the Hons Project?

If you were doing it again, what would you do differently and why?

How has the Hons project influenced or shaped your understanding of the topic/area you investigated?

What key transferable skills have you learnt and developed through your Hons Project?

Completing your Hons Project Specification Form

Marking Scheme

All Hons Project marking schemes should cover the following in some way:

Introduction

Literature Review or Background Information

..

..

..

Conclusions/Recommendations/Critical Appraisal

Completing your Hons Project Specification Form

Deciding on what a Passable Project will do and what a First Class project will do?

You should consult your Supervisor and Moderator

The Programme/Year Leader will be consulted to ensure fairness and consistency

Plagiarism

Defined by University as the use of other students work past or present or substantial and unacknowledged use of published material presented as student's own work

Very serious offence and can lead to failing Honour Project module

Cannot achieve a Honours Degree without passing Honours Project

Plagiarism

- **Extensive use of another person's material** without reference or acknowledgement
- Summarising of another person's material by **changing a few words** or altering the order of presentation without reference or acknowledgement
- Substantial and unauthorised **use of ideas of another person without acknowledgement**
- **Copying the work of another student** with or without the student's knowledge or agreement
- Deliberate use of commissioned material which is presented as one's own
- **Unacknowledged quotation of phrases** from another's work

Timetabled Sessions

During Term 1 there will be timetabled lecture and tutorial sessions, as well as tutorial/support sessions during Term 2

Areas covered during timetabled classes will include:

- Advice on Project Specification
- Hons Project Management
- Performing a Literature Review
- Research Methods
- Analytical and Evaluation Techniques
- Writing the Interim Report
- Hons Project Presentation
- How to Write the Final Dissertation

Getting Started

1. Think about suitable Hons Project ideas
2. Look at list on Moodle site, as well as think of your own ideas
3. Play to your strengths
4. Talk to possible Supervisors
5. Start filling in Project Specification form
6. Start thinking and acting from now

Finally...

Think about the kind of jobs you want after Hons Year

Undertake an Hons Project that will help you showcase your skills and knowledge

Hons Project important in showing to potential employers what you can do. Companies have contacted UWS looking for bright and capable students

Choose an area that will hold your attention and enthusiasm for 7 months

Just one more thing...

Keep an eye on the Moodle site for

- Updates
- Announcements
- Hons Project ideas and proposals
- Copies of material and handouts