

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	Honours Degree Project		
MODULE CODE	CO3808 (L6)	CREDIT VALUE	40 / 20 ECTS
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF SCIENCE		

MODULE AIMS

1. To enable students to act with confidence and competence in a substantial problem-solving activity.
2. To provide an opportunity to practise creativity, time management, project planning and control.
3. To develop the student's skills of critically evaluating her or his own work and the work of others.
4. To develop the student's communication skills.
5. To provide an opportunity for students to research and analyse relevant literature and produce an academic report on their investigations.
6. To provide an opportunity for the consideration of enterprise and ethical issues.

MODULE CONTENT

The double module project will involve research, independent study and the production of a substantial report, which will be based on the investigation of a problem and the development of a solution. This project will be the culmination of the student's study and will draw substantially on the material and skills developed during the course. The project must be relevant to the student's course. If necessary, the Course Leader's approval will be sought.

Syllabus Content

Idea generation and evaluation

Ethical and commercial assessment

Project management and time management

Problem solving and selection of solutions

Communication skills: reports, articles, posters and verbal communication

Problem analysis

System design

Implementation

Critical evaluation

Research skills: literature searching, evaluation of sources and analysis, market analysis and market research

Enterprise skills

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module a student will be able to:

1. Select and apply appropriate techniques to analyse and tackle a complex problem.
2. Identify ethical issues and propose appropriate solutions.
3. Consider the commercial development of the project idea.
4. Produce a substantial, complex piece of work within a specified timescale based on an agreed specification.
5. Apply project management techniques.
6. Critically evaluate his or her own performance and the tools and techniques used.
7. Research relevant literature and analyse the material found.
8. Communicate complex information effectively.

TEACHING METHODS

At the end of their second year, students receive guidance on projects. At the start of the final year, project proposals are reviewed and agreed in discussion with staff. Following the submission of a draft proposal identifying the problem to be solved and relevant ethical issues, each student is allocated a project supervisor. Student and supervisor agree project goals, a schedule for completion of the project, and a technical plan outlining the approach to be taken.

Students discuss decisions, progress and problems with their supervisor. The supervisor provides advice and guides the student in solving problems. Where problems arise that are beyond the expertise of the student or the supervisor, the student will be directed to staff with relevant expertise.

Two progress reviews are used just before and after Christmas in order to provide scaffolding to help the students manage their time and to allow reflection upon progress.

There is a Project Week near the start of semester 2. This is a non-teaching week, when students work intensively on their projects, with supervisor support.

A final report is submitted at the end of the second semester. The student demonstrates the final product in a poster session.

The poster session, which will include a demonstration of the project deliverables and informal interviews by the supervisor and second reader, will take place after the submission of the report at the end of the second semester. As well as a direct contribution to the overall mark, the poster session will also be used to confirm the mark awarded for the project report.

To help ensure consistency, there are marking schemes for the separate submissions of the project.

The project tutor will have an additional moderating role, and in particular will help to resolve significant discrepancies between the marks awarded by supervisor and second reader. Where necessary, students will be interviewed.

The dissertation will include chapters that address the following topics:

- Context
 - a description of the problem domain and the particular problem addressed in the project.
- Literature Review
 - a critical analysis of published sources
 - demonstrates a familiarity with a body of knowledge
- Approach
 - a brief description of the methods and techniques used;
 - a reasoned justification of the methods and techniques adopted;
 - an evaluation of the approach.
- Ethical and Commercial Issues
 - review of relevant ethical issues and resolution
 - assessment of commercial potential and appropriate actions
- Critical Evaluation
 - evaluation of
 - the project domain, the client, and any other personnel;
 - the tools, techniques and methodologies used;
 - relevant concepts, models and practical application of theory to the project;
 - the student's own personal development.
- Bibliography and References
 - evidence that the student has researched and read widely around the project domain

This module is assessed through a Project Deliverables (40%), a poster (10%), an interview at poster session (pass/fail) and a project report (50%).