MSc Individual Project

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MSc Project Coordinators
What Is The Project?

The individual project is the second half of your degree.

- It is the main research component
- It is open-ended
- It requires months of full-time effort
- It is not vacation time

A Piece of Academic Work

- It is a problem to be addressed
- Aim 1 — produce a great report that demonstrates:
  - Ability to conduct independent research
  - Ability to produce a non-trivial implementation and/or piece of theoretical work
  - Ability to communicate your achievements
The written report is the main academic product of your project. It must be written entirely by you.

- Copy and paste is not an acceptable method of adding any content.
- Your understanding of what you have read is being assessed.
- Sections about background material must give your description of the subject (with references to source).
- If you do not understand something well enough to write about it, do not put it in the report.
Project Milestones

1. Choose (and be chosen for) a project
2. Submit a background report
3. Present and demonstrate results
4. Submit a final report (“thesis”)
5. Submit any artefacts (“code”)

Sources of Information

Project Info
- http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/lab/msc-projects
- Main deadlines, summary

Project Guidelines
- http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/lab/msc-projects/ProjectsGuide.html
- Linked to from main page above
- Full information on the process, plenty of advice, pitfalls etc.

Project Proposals and Admin
- https://project-portal.doc.ic.ac.uk

Previous Distinguished Projects
- http://www.imperial.ac.uk/computing/current-students/project-info/pg-prizes/
Finding a Project: Proposals

The standard route — staff proposed projects

• Browse through the staff proposals
• You see all (only) those suitable for your degree
• Plenty of choice

The alternative — propose a project yourself

• Add your proposal to the project portal
• Must find a willing departmental supervisor
• Complete the admin steps as for other projects

Both types can include industry-linked projects
Industry-Linked Proposals

- Can be great projects but need planning – there are pitfalls
- Must be approved by Course Director
- Must find a departmental supervisor
- Not an internship
- Industry partner not involved in assessment
- Rules for industry-based projects
  - https://workspace.imperial.ac.uk/computing/Public/files/industry-based-msc-projects.pdf
Steps in Project Allocation

1. Supervisors propose projects
2. Students view proposals and select ones of interest
3. Students arrange meetings with potential supervisors
   - proposal might specify available times
4. Supervisors record meeting and suitability
5. Students record preferences
   - 1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice
6. Project coordinator allocates projects to students
You **MUST** shortlist three projects, from at least two different supervisors.

**Even if** you really only want your first choice.

**Even if** you have ‘agreed’ with the supervisor that you will get your first choice.

**Unless** it is your own proposal.

The allocation is done by the coordinators, not the supervisors.

Listing only one choice will not mean you will get that project. You will be given **lower** priority.

The system shows **how popular** each project is. The more popular the project, the more competition.
Important Dates (Spring Term)

Review project proposals and meet with potential supervisors

- Spring term weeks 2–4

Indicate your project preferences

- first, second, third choice
- deadline: 24.00 Friday 2nd February
Important Dates (After Spring Term)

Submit background and progress report
  • electronic: 24.00 Friday 8 June

Present/demonstrate results
  • supervisor and second marker
  • by arrangement, close to report deadline

Submit final report
  • hard copies: 14.00 Friday 7 September
  • electronic: 14.00 Friday 7 September
Projects and ISOS/MRes Projects

Individual Project Must Be Distinct From ISO or MRes Project

- You cannot get credit twice for same work

Projects Can Be Related

- Deeper research into specific aspect
- Complementary to earlier work
- You must include extra section in report with ISO/MRes results, explaining relationship to project

Literature Survey

- ISO/MRes may be a literature review
- Need to replace this part of project
- Include in project report with attribution
Some Important Links

Project Information
- http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/lab/msc-projects
- http://www.doc.ic.ac.uk/lab/msc-projects/ProjectsGuide.html
- Can also be accessed via MSc noticeboard

Viewing projects and recording preferences
- https://project-portal.doc.ic.ac.uk
Thanks for Your Attention

ANY QUESTIONS??