

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

In Your Own Words

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

The Allocation Process

- 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??