Modular Degree in
Computer Science
and
Information Technology
Final Year Project

Computer Science Project

Information Technology Project

Covering all Awards

Assessment Criteria
IST Studies

How you will be marked

• **DPS/P** 2% You cannot start project without it
• **IPR** 2% Interim report
• **WPR** 6% Weekly reports
• **FPR** 90% Together with other Final Project Products to support the report - project
• **Presentation:** No marks but can slightly improve your overall marking
• **Extended Oral:** Marked by a multiplier 0-1 that multiplies your overall marking. Can also slightly improve your overall marking
How Goals in DPS/P affect final mark

• High initial goals =>
  Easier to get better marks
  – If you aim for 100
  then 70% of 100 is
  1st class

• Low initial goals =>
  your marks will be
capped
  – If you aim for 50
  then 70% of 50 is fail

You are asked to give the basic deliverables for a pass mark. ie: for a 40, or better for a mark between 40 and 49.

If we think that these are enough we will accept your proposal (provided of course that other details such as ethics, resources etc are correct)

You are also asked to give what additional you will submit for a better mark.

That is what you are aiming for. If you are aiming for just a pass then YOU are setting a mark capped to 49. You cannot get more, unless you do more of that you said you will do. If you are aiming for 49 and you accomplish 70% of that then you get .7*49=34 so you fail.

If your additional proposals are evaluated that are good enough for a higher mark then your project mark will be capped to the mark that it has been evaluated. For example the module leader thinks that your proposal are aimed for a 70 then that is where your mark will be capped.

If you accomplish 70% of that then you get .7*70=49 so 3rd class.

So aim for 100. If you aim for 100 and you accomplish 70% of that then you will get 70 (that is 1st class).
Academic Offences (Ac.Of.)

- You must be careful to explain what parts of the work are your own. Each year some students fail to get a degree because they try to pass off someone else’s work as their own.

- The importance of re-use is well known, but you must identify what is being re-used and what is your own work.

- Be careful when you use RAD tools.

Please see Student’s handbook Appendix B’ for details. University Policies and Regulations (UPR) is the main legal document to see.

Plagiarism or Collusion can be detected by various means including software (programs).

Be careful on the way you use resources. During 1st year, on the module “Professional Skills for Computer Science” renamed to “Professional and Academic Skills”, we have run lectures, tutorials and exercises on Academic Offences. We consider that you are aware of these – we cannot accept excuses of the type “was not attending” or “I failed the module”. You are obliged to know these even if you are a direct entry student to second or third year.
Serious Adverse Circumstances (SAC)

- 'Serious Adverse Circumstances' are significant circumstances beyond a student's control that would have affected his or her ability to perform to his or her full potential if he or she were to sit or submit an assessment at the appointed time.
- If, despite such circumstances, you decide to sit or submit an assessment, the University will not normally accept a claim of serious adverse circumstances in respect of that assessment.
- Ask your PT for advice if you need to apply.

Please see Student’s handbook for details. University Policies and Regulations (UPR) is the main legal document to see.

Be careful on the way and the timing you use that right you have.

During 1st year, on the module “Professional and Academic Skills”, we have run lectures, and tutorials on Extenuating circumstances. We consider that you are aware of these – we cannot accept excuses of the type “was not attending” or “I failed the module”. You are obliged to know these even if you are a direct entry student to second or third year.

The board of examiners will decide on any case.

No Extenuating circumstances can be accepted for Academic Offences.
Assessment Criteria

• What it is worth
  – Your report will be marked out of 100 and after scaling – capping will contribute as 90% to total mark. The rest 10% comes from:
    • DPS/P  2%
    • IPR    2%
    • WPR    6%

Your work for the final submission will be given a mark out of 100, which will be scaled and added to the marks for your
• Detailed Project Proposal
• Interim Progress Report
• Weekly reports
This mark will be scaled in a way such as to be capped on the aiming mark you set on your Detail Specification / Plan.
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Assessment procedure –1

- Report marked separately by Supervisor and Moderator
- If there is disagreement the module leader is used as referee.
- The mark is scaled and capped by the module leader to the initial target the student has set.
Assessment procedure –2

• Marks from DPS/P, IPR, WR are added
• The student goes on demo or oral
• After that the module leader decides on the final mark to propose to the Board of Examiners (BoE).
• The BoE taking in consideration EC and/or Ac.Of. decides the final mark

Missing Demo or Oral will mark your project with ZERO.

In case that EC apply please contact immediately the Programme Tutor. You may not have enough time to get an examination before the BoE.
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What markers will look for – 1

• Project report gives evidence that all the learning outcomes are met in some degree in order to get a pass mark.
• No marks will be awarded for work, which involve little other than the repetition of work for which the student has already gained academic credit.

Markers should be aware that Projects should be marked towards the following learning outcomes of the module (see DMD):

Knowledge and Understanding - Skills and Attributes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student should have shown that (s)he can:
1) take a practical problem specified in terms of overall objectives, and analyse it to determine a set of detailed objectives and the tasks that need to be undertaken in order to meet those objectives;
2) conduct a programme of independent practical work which requires the application of knowledge from a focused area of computer science;
3) identify his/her learning needs in the context of the project, and how those needs might best be met;
4) plan his/her own work and manage the execution of that plan to completion without the need for close supervision, making any necessary modifications to the project objectives, or to the plan, along the way;
5) document and report on the planning, execution, interim results and final products of his/her work in a manner appropriate to the needs of a specified readership;
6) choose an appropriate set of criteria against which to evaluate work of the kind (s)he has undertaken, justify his/her choice, and apply those criteria in the evaluation of his/her own project work, and the work of others;
7) produce a written report on his/her work which is well-structured and at an appropriate standard of English;
8) critically evaluate what (s)he has learned from his/her experience of individual project work, and explain how his/her work might be improved or extended.

Project reports should give evidence that all the learning outcomes are met in some degree in order to get a pass mark.

Students will not be awarded marks for work, which involve little other than the repetition of work for which they have already gained academic credit.
Factors taken in to account

• some of the following, depending on the nature of the project
  – Complexity of the task
  – Background research
  – Problem definition
  – Critical appraisal of students own work
  – Communication skills
  – Quality of solution
  – Quality of approach
  – Description of the management of the project
  – Testing; analysis and evaluation

The following factors will be taken into account in marking all projects:
• The size and complexity of the task;
• Critical appraisal of students own work: clarity of statement on what work has actually completed; evaluation of the extent of achievement; evaluation of the management of the project, including use of the project plan; assessment of the success of the project overall and of possible remaining or future tasks;
• Communication skills: structure of the report; coherent, well organized presentation; quality of writing.
• Description of the management of the project, the students work, and the use of the supervisor throughout the project development period;
• Testing; analysis and evaluation of end product(s) and results.

Other factors will carry different weights depending on the nature of the project. Because of the different focus of work in various projects, markers will decide what weight to attach to the following factors:
• Background research;
• Problem definition and requirements analysis;
• Quality of solution: design and implementation; experimental work; will usually carry the most significant number of marks.
• Quality of approach: suitability of method, choice of tools and skill in using them;
We expect all students, even for a bare pass, to be able to explain their work and show an appropriate level of understanding of any technical material developed in their report as well as during the Demonstration or Oral.

Such explanations and demonstrations of understanding should be evident both in the written report and during the presentation / demonstration; without them even an impressive piece of software is of little value.

A student failing to prove that during the demonstration or the oral cannot get a pass mark.
Characteristics of each grade

• Honours Grades
  70-100  1\textsuperscript{st} Class Honours
  60-69   Upper 2\textsuperscript{nd} Class Honours
  50-59   Lower 2\textsuperscript{nd} Class Honours
  40-49   3\textsuperscript{rd} Class Honours

\textit{Honours Grades}
Honours Grades are the grades

1\textsuperscript{st} Class Honours 70-100
Upper 2\textsuperscript{nd} Class Honours 60-69
Lower 2\textsuperscript{nd} Class Honours 50-59
3\textsuperscript{rd} Class Honours 40-49
A project can fail if:

- Project declaration and DPS/P are not bound together in the report
- No readable electronic form of report was given
- Ethics approval was required and the student did not apply or was rejected.
- The report is in Greek
- The application is in Greek (except special cases requiring prior approval)
- The student fails to support his work during Demo or Oral.

- The student has not include in the bounded copy of his project DPS/P and Signed Declaration Document
- The student has not submitted his report in electronic form according to the standards given, or the submitted one was not readable by the IST LAB PCs
- The student has not obtain Ethics approval (not apply or he has been rejected) while he had to for this project.
- The student is not able to support his project work (report, application, giving clear answer to questions without fudging or avoiding to answer) during the presentation / demonstration, even if the submitted work is of the highest standards;
- There is a reasonable believe that the student has committed an offence, such as collusion or plagiarism.

NOTE.
A report that is badly disorganized, is incoherent at the level of English grammar, or is inadequate or inaccurate as a description of the work done, may receive a poor grade (or even fail) even if the practical work is of a high standard.

The report, the application, and anything submitted for assessment must be in English, otherwise the project will be marked by zero.
Fail – 2

• A project can also fail if:
  – does not give evidence of some progress and learning
  – The report suffers from some or all of the weaknesses, which were unacceptable for a 3rd Class project
  – The student is not able to point to some significant and challenging objectives for the project work which were met
  – The work done is a repetition of a previous done work

A failed project is the one that has any one of the following characteristics:

• The project does not give evidence of some progress and learning over the project period;
• The report suffers from some or all of the weaknesses, which were unacceptable for a 3rd Class Honours project;
• The student is not able to point to some significant and challenging objectives for the project work which were met;
• An ethics approval is required and the student fails to obtain it or starts work before he gets it;
For a **3rd Class**

- evidence that you have a reasonable understanding of the basic issues in your project work
- Basic issues of the project have been discussed with reference
- The practical work will have met some of the objectives to an adequate standard
- The report provides:
  - an account of work done,
  - contains an evaluation of your work,
  - some proposals for improvements

For a **40-49 3rd Class Honours Grade** the report and the demo/oral will demonstrate that the following criteria are satisfied:

- We expect to see evidence that you have a reasonable understanding of the basic issues in your project work.
- Basic issues of the project have been discussed with reference to literature.
- The practical work will have met some of the objectives and this will be done to an adequate standard or better, although there may be flaws.
- Your report must provide an account of work done, and must contain an evaluation of your work, as well as some proposals for improvements, otherwise cannot be marked with a 3rd Class grade even if it has some merits of a 1st class grade work.
- We expect a 3rd Class Grade report to be reasonably coherent, and reasonably free of grammatical errors.
For a **50-59 Lower 2nd Class Honours grade** the report and the demo / oral will demonstrate that the following criteria are satisfied:

- All criteria for a 3rd Class Honours grade project should apply. Additionally:
  - We expect to see evidence that you have taken a methodical approach to the work, and
  - That you have undertaken practical work of reasonable scale and at least to an average standard. The practical work will have met all of the objectives and this will be done to an average standard or better.
  - A report without description of the management of the project, and the students work, and the use of the supervisor throughout the project development period cannot be graded a Lower 2nd Class Honours grade, even if the rest of the work is of 1st Class grade standards.
  - We expect you to demonstrate an understanding of the principal issues in your project work, and to be able to describe what you have done reasonably clearly.
  - We expect to see a presentation of testing, verification and validation, obviously not as well as an Upper 2nd class Grade student.
  - Your report must contain an evaluation of your work, at least, in matters of development methods, and these must be validated with proper references.
  - We expect a Lower 2nd Class Honours grade report to be coherent and largely free of grammatical errors.

- In addition to 3rd class
  - methodical approach to the work
  - practical work of reasonable scale at least to an average standard
  - description of the management of the project, and the students work, and the use of the supervisor
  - demonstrate an understanding of the principal issues
  - be able to describe what you have done reasonably clearly
  - a presentation of testing, verification and validation
  - report to be coherent and largely free of grammatical errors
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Upper 2nd Class

- In addition to Lower 2nd class
  - broad-ranging and thorough investigation of the project topic
  - substantial quantity of practical work of a high standard
  - Proper evaluation and validation with proper references
  - proper evaluation of the management of the project
  - presentation of testing, verification and validation
  - you are aware of the limitations of the work
  - comment on aspects of it that would merit further study
  - report to be well structured, coherent and mainly free of grammatical errors

For a 60-69 Upper 2nd Class Honours the report and the demo/oral will demonstrate that the following criteria are satisfied:

- All criteria for a Lower 2nd Class Honours grade project should apply. Additionally:
  - We expect to see a broad-ranging and thorough investigation of the project topic, with a methodical presentation of all the main issues.
  - We also expect you, to have evaluated properly all of the main points thrown up by your work, document them and validate them in reference to proper references or published articles, although obviously not as well as an 1st class Grade student.
  - A report without proper evaluation of the management of the project, and the students work, through out the project development period, with clear description of the management methods used, the remedies employed when the plan went wrong, cannot be graded an Upper 2nd class grade, even if the rest of the work is of 1st class grade standards
  - We expect to see a presentation of testing, verification and validation, obviously not as well as an 1st class Grade student.
  - We also expect you to show that you are aware of the limitations of the work, and to recognize and comment on aspects of it that would merit further study.
  - We would expect an Upper 2nd class Grade report to be well structured, coherent and mainly free of grammatical errors.
1st class

• In addition to 2nd Upper
  – exceptional degree of thoroughness
  – substantial practical achievement
  – all major issues to be properly evaluated and validated with proper references
  – we expect you to have unearthed and addressed all the complexities of the problem, and not to have avoided any difficulties
  – must have identified, investigate and tackled a problem and demonstrate an adequate investigation
  – A well structured report free of significant grammatical errors

For a 70-100 1st Class Honours Grade the report and the demo/oral will demonstrate that the following criteria are satisfied:

• All criteria for an Upper 2nd Class Honours grade project should apply. Additionally:
  • We expect the work to show an exceptional degree of thoroughness, and evidence of substantial practical achievement.
  • We expect all major issues, including the really hard and perhaps unresolvable ones, to be properly evaluated, validated them in reference to proper references including published papers/articles, and commented upon in the project report.
  • We are not looking for an original contribution to knowledge, but we expect you to have unearthed and addressed all the complexities of the problem, and not to have avoided any difficulties.
  • To get an 1st Class Grade mark you must have identified, investigate and tackled a problem, and produce a report that demonstrates a sound and adequate investigation of the problem, a sound and adequate approach to undertaking the investigation, and critical reflection on both the approach and investigation up to the standards expected for a first class BSc Honours award.
  • We expect the report to be well structured, coherent, well written and free of significant grammatical errors.