



**MONASH** University  
Information Technology

**FIT4186  
Honours thesis**

**Unit Guide**

**Semester 1, 2011**

The information contained in this unit guide is correct at time of publication. The University has the right to change any of the elements contained in this document at any time.

*Last updated: 27 Feb 2011*

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# **FIT4186 Honours thesis - Semester 1, 2011**

This unit is a research unit and a requirement for the FIT Honours degrees. Due to the nature of IT, a wide range of Honours project types can be offered to students. Some project components are of a practical nature and may involve some software development and/or experimentation, while other components are of a more theoretical nature.

## **Mode of Delivery**

- Berwick (Day)
- Caulfield (Day)
- Clayton (Day)
- Gippsland (Day)
- Gippsland (Off-campus)

## **Contact Hours**

Regular meetings with supervisor(s) over the course of the semester.

## **Workload**

## **Unit Relationships**

### **Prohibitions**

CPE4000, CSE4000, IMS4000

### **Prerequisites**

Admission to the Bachelor of Computer Science (Honours) or Bachelor of Business Information Systems (Honours) or Bachelor of Information Technology and Systems (Honours) program.

## **Chief Examiner**

**Michael Morgan**

## **Campus Lecturer**

### **Berwick**

**Dr Kirsten Ellis**

## **Caulfield**

## **Clayton**

**Dr Alan Dorin**

## **Gippsland**

**Dr Madhu Chetty**

## **South Africa**

**Dr Jacques Steyn**

## **Learning Objectives**

At the completion of this unit students will have:

- demonstrated knowledge and understanding in the area of their chosen research project.
- acquired necessary skills to plan and undertake rigorous independent research.
- acquired comprehensive research skills in the IT field.
- developed the capacity to engage in critical thinking and analysis.
- demonstrated the ability to communicate research activities and findings.

Developed attitudes that enable them to:

- have confidence in their ability to undertake independent and individual research.
- have confidence in their ability to plan and execute an individual research project.

Developed the skills to:

- find and analyse current research literature;
- critically evaluate research findings;
- Identify open problems in current research;
- Identify promising new research directions based on previous results;
- Define feasible projects based on such problems;
- Set realistic timelines and intermediate deliverables for a research project;
- Communicate research results in a variety of forms, including informal oral presentations, written reports, seminar presentations and poster presentations.

Demonstrated the communication skills necessary to:

- communicate research ideas effectively in oral and written form;
- collaborate effectively with their supervisor.

## **Graduate Attributes**

Monash prepares its graduates to be:

1. responsible and effective global citizens who:

- a. engage in an internationalised world
- b. exhibit cross-cultural competence
- c. demonstrate ethical values

critical and creative scholars who:

- a. produce innovative solutions to problems
- b. apply research skills to a range of challenges
- c. communicate perceptively and effectively

## Assessment Summary

Research Proposal: 5%; Literature Review: 10%; Interim Presentation: hurdle; Final Presentation: 5%; Thesis (normally 10,000 - 20,000 words): 80%

Assessment Task	Value	Due Date
Final Presentation	5% of the 24 cpt or 18 cpt thesis	Week 12, at a seminar time to be scheduled.
Honours Thesis (10,000 to 20,000 words)	80% of the 24 cpt or 18 cpt thesis	Week 15, 3pm Friday

## Teaching Approach

### Research activities

Students will research an agreed thesis topic under the guidance of their supervisor and will receive feedback on their progress through regular meetings with their supervisor.

## Feedback

### Our feedback to You

Types of feedback you can expect to receive in this unit are:

- Other: Supervisor meetings and seminar presentations.

### Your feedback to Us

Monash is committed to excellence in education and regularly seeks feedback from students, employers and staff. One of the key formal ways students have to provide feedback is through SETU, Student Evaluation of Teacher and Unit. The University's student evaluation policy requires that every unit is evaluated each year. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the surveys. The feedback is anonymous and provides the Faculty with evidence of aspects that students are satisfied and areas for improvement.

For more information on Monash's educational strategy, and on student evaluations, see:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/about/monash-directions/directions.html>

<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/quality/student-evaluation-policy.html>

## Previous Student Evaluations of this unit

If you wish to view how previous students rated this unit, please go to <https://emuapps.monash.edu.au/unitevaluations/index.jsp>

## Unit Schedule

Week	Date*	Activities	Assessment
0	21/02/11	Students will research an agreed thesis topic under the guidance of their supervisor and will receive feedback on their progress through regular meetings with their supervisor.	No formal assessment or activities are undertaken in week 0
1	28/02/11		
2	07/03/11		
3	14/03/11		
4	21/03/11		
5	28/03/11		
6	04/04/11		
7	11/04/11		
8	18/04/11		
Mid semester break			
9	02/05/11		
10	09/05/11		
11	16/05/11		
12	23/05/11		Final Presentation: due Week 12, 5% and the Thesis: due Week 15, 80%
	30/05/11	SWOT VAC	No formal assessment is undertaken SWOT VAC

\*Please note that these dates may only apply to Australian campuses of Monash University. Off-shore students need to check the dates with their unit leader.

## Assessment Policy

To pass a unit which includes an examination as part of the assessment a student must obtain:

- 40% or more in the unit's examination, and
- 40% or more in the unit's total non-examination assessment, and
- an overall unit mark of 50% or more.

If a student does not achieve 40% or more in the unit examination or the unit non-examination total assessment, and the total mark for the unit is greater than 50% then a mark of no greater than 49-N will be recorded for the unit

## Assessment Tasks

### Participation

This unit forms part of the sequence of units comprising the Honours thesis in the Faculty of Information Technology for students enrolled prior to 2011.

Two exit points exist for the Honours thesis, when student attain 24 cpts or 18 cpts. Students enrolled prior to 2011 will select a combination of units resulting in the required credit point total.

The 24 credit point exit point is applicable to:

Honours degree of Bachelor of Business Information Systems, Honours degree of Bachelor of Computer Science, Honours degree of Bachelor of Information Technology and Systems.

The 18 credit point exit point is applicable to:

Honours stream in the Bachelor of Software Engineering.

FIT4186 Honours Thesis is a unit with an enrolled value of 18CP and 0CP or 24CP achievable, taken over a single semester but forms the first part of a sequence of units that together allow a student to complete an Honours Thesis of 18 or 24 credit points.

These units include:

FIT4606 Honours Thesis (6 cpts)

FIT4126 Honours Thesis (12 cpts)

FIT4186 Honours Thesis (18 cpts)

At the completion of the requirements for the thesis the following components of assessment will be completed:

Research Proposal: 5%; Literature Review: 10%; Interim Presentation: hurdle; Final Presentation: 5%; Thesis (normally 10,000 - 20,000 words): 80%

These assessment tasks will be completed over the course of several units in the Honours program but the overall grade for the thesis will only be finalised on completion of either 24 cpts or 18 cpts.

Please refer to the Unit Guides for FIT4606, FIT4126 and FIT4186 for a description of the assessment items to be completed over the course of the Honours Thesis.

The following components will be assessed during the course of this unit:

Final Presentation: 5%; Thesis (normally 10,000 - 20,000 words): 80%

#### • Assessment task 1

**Title:**

Final Presentation

**Description:**

Present a 20 minute presentation on your research project to your peers with an additional

10 minute question period.

The presentation should clearly identify the research problem, significance and aims. The background research context should be outlined and the research approach and method clearly defined.

The research outcomes and possible avenues for further research should be presented.

The presentation should be well structured and concisely delivered.

The presented will also be required to answer questions raised by their peers and the lecturing staff.

**Weighting:**

5% of the 24 cpt or 18 cpt thesis

**Criteria for assessment:**

Content and Structure of Presentation - /70

Presentation Delivery - /30

**Total - /100**

**Due date:**

Week 12, at a seminar time to be scheduled.

• **Assessment task 2**

**Title:**

Honours Thesis (10,000 to 20,000 words)

**Description:**

Submit an Honours Thesis of 10,000 to 20,000 words that describes your research.

The thesis should be well structured and contain: an abstract, table of contents and correct referencing.

It will provide a clear description of the objectives of the project, will include a comprehensive literature review, and describe the methodology used.

The thesis will provide a good analysis of the evaluation of results, and contain the correct grammar and expression.

The presentation of the thesis document will be consistent with the standard expected of academic writing in the field.

**Weighting:**

80% of the 24 cpt or 18 cpt thesis

**Criteria for assessment:**

Difficulty of task - /10

Quality and substance of report consistent with presentation - /40

Achievement - /50

**Total - /100**

**Due date:**

Week 15, 3pm Friday



## Examinations

### Assignment submission

Assignment coversheets are available via "Student Forms" on the Faculty website:

<http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/resources/student/forms/>

You MUST submit a completed coversheet with all assignments, ensuring that the plagiarism declaration section is signed.

### Extensions and penalties

Submission must be made by the due date otherwise penalties will be enforced.

You must negotiate any extensions formally with your campus unit leader via the in-semester special consideration process:

<http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/resources/student/equity/special-consideration.html>.

### Returning assignments

Students can expect assignments to be returned within two weeks of the submission date or after receipt, whichever is later

## Policies

Monash has educational policies, procedures and guidelines, which are designed to ensure that staff and students are aware of the University's academic standards, and to provide advice on how they might uphold them. You can find Monash's Education Policies at:

<http://policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/education/index.html>

Key educational policies include:

- Plagiarism  
(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/conduct/plagiarism-policy.html>)
- Assessment  
(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/assessment-in-coursework-p>)
- Special Consideration  
(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/special-consideration-policy.h>)
- Grading Scale  
(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/grading-scale-policy.html>)
- Discipline: Student Policy  
(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/conduct/student-discipline-policy.html>)
- Academic Calendar and Semesters (<http://www.monash.edu.au/students/key-dates/>);
- Orientation and Transition (<http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/resources/student/orientation/>);  
and
- Academic and Administrative Complaints and Grievances Policy  
(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/management/complaints-grievance-policy>)

## Student services

The University provides many different kinds of support services for you. Contact your tutor if you need advice and see the range of services available at [www.monash.edu.au/students](http://www.monash.edu.au/students) The Monash University Library provides a range of services and resources that enable you to save time and be more effective in your learning and research. Go to <http://www.lib.monash.edu.au> or the library tab in my.monash portal for more information. Students who have a disability or medical condition are welcome to contact the Disability Liaison Unit to discuss academic support services. Disability Liaison Officers (DLOs) visit all Victorian campuses on a regular basis

- Website: <http://adm.monash.edu/sss/equity-diversity/disability-liaison/index.html>;
- Telephone: 03 9905 5704 to book an appointment with a DLO;
- Email: [dlu@monash.edu](mailto:dlu@monash.edu)
- Drop In: Equity and Diversity Centre, Level 1 Gallery Building (Building 55), Monash University, Clayton Campus.