



MONASH University
Information Technology

FIT4441
Honours thesis part 1

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.

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FIT4441 Honours thesis part 1 - Semester 1, 2011

This unit is a research unit and a core unit for all 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)
- South Africa (Day)

Contact Hours

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

Workload

The workload in this unit is equivalent to a 6 credit point unit, i.e. 12 hours study per week.

Contact hours will consist of regular meeting with your supervisor.

Unit Relationships

Prohibitions

CPE4000, CSE4000, IMS4000, FIT4126, FIT4186, FIT4246, FIT4606

Prerequisites

Admission to an FIT 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
Research Proposal	5% of the 24 cpt or 18 cpt thesis	Week 6, 3pm Friday
Literature Review	10% of the 24 cpt or 18 cpt thesis	Week 12, 3pm Friday
Interim Presentation	This is a no assessible hurdle requirement	Week 12 at a seminar time to be scheduled.

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.	Thesis Topic selection
1	28/02/11		
2	07/03/11		
3	14/03/11		
4	21/03/11		
5	28/03/11		
6	04/04/11		Research Proposal 5% of the 24 cpt or 18 cpt thesis
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		Literature Review 10% of the 24cpt thesis and Interim Presentation
	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.

Two exit points exist for the Honours thesis, FIT4444 (24 cpts) and FIT4448 (18 cpts).

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 Computing and Information Sciences,
- 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.

FIT4441 Honours Thesis Part 1 is a unit with an enrolled value of 6CP and 0CP 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:

- FIT4441 Honours Thesis Part 1
- FIT4442 Honours Thesis Part 2
- FIT4443 Honours Thesis Part 3
- FIT4444 Honours Thesis Final (24 cpts) or FIT4448 Honours Thesis Final (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 FIT4444 (24 cpts) or FIT4448 (18 cpts).

Please refer to the Unit Guides for FIT4441, FIT4444 and FIT4448 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:

Research Proposal: 5%; Literature Review: 10%; Interim Presentation: hurdle.

• **Assessment task 1**

Title:

Research Proposal

Description:

Create a research proposal that clearly identifies the agreed research topic, identifies the problem being studied, and justifies the aims and significance of the project.

The proposal should include a discussion of the research context and background, the proposed methodology, the research design and deliverables.

The proposal should also be presented professionally with a standard of written expression appropriate to research publications in the field.

Weighting:

5% of the 24 cpt or 18 cpt thesis

Criteria for assessment:

Overall discussion of research to be undertaken for the topic - /80

Overall report writing - /20

Total - /100

Due date:

Week 6, 3pm Friday

• **Assessment task 2**

Title:

Literature Review

Description:

Create a literature review based on the agreed topic which provides a critical review of the key literature in the content area. The argument constructed should be presented in a coherent manner with the support of an adequate number of relevant and correctly formatted references.

The review should be structured in an appropriate scientific format, and be clearly and concisely expressed.

The presentation should be of a professional standard and include a title page, a table of contents, page numbering and references.

Weighting:

10% of the 24 cpt or 18 cpt thesis

Criteria for assessment:

Overall content, scope, depth of discussion - /70

Overall organisation and presentation - /30

Total - /100

Due date:

Week 12, 3pm Friday

• **Assessment task 3**

Title:

Interim Presentation

Description:

Provide a 20 minute summary of the current progress of your research project to your peers.

The seminar will be scheduled in week 12 of semester.

Weighting:

This is a no assessable hurdle requirement

Criteria for assessment:

Participation in a 20 minute seminar on the current progress of the research project is a hurdle requirement.

Due date:

Week 12 at a seminar time to be scheduled.

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 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
- Drop In: Equity and Diversity Centre, Level 1 Gallery Building (Building 55), Monash University, Clayton Campus.