



**MONASH** University  
Information Technology

**FIT4441**  
**Honours thesis part 1**

**Unit Guide**

**Semester 2, 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: 22 Aug 2011*

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# **FIT4441 Honours thesis part 1 - Semester 2, 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**

Dr Michael Morgan

## **Campus Lecturer**

### **Berwick**

Dr Kirsten Ellis

## **Caulfield**

**Dr Campbell Wilson**

## **Clayton**

**Dr Alan Dorin**

## **Gippsland**

**Dr Gour Karmakar**

## **South Africa**

**Dr Neil Manson**

# Academic Overview

## 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 14, 3pm Friday
Interim Presentation	This is a no assessable hurdle requirement	Week 14 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	Activities	Assessment
0	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		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		Research Proposal 5% of the 24 cpt or 18 cpt thesis
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		Literature Review (Due week 14) 10% of the 24cpt thesis and Interim Presentation
	SWOT VAC	No formal assessment is undertaken SWOT VAC
	Examination period	LINK to Assessment Policy: <a href="http://policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/assessment-in-coursework-policy.html">http://policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/assessment-in-coursework-policy.html</a>

\*Unit Schedule details will be maintained and communicated to you via your MUSO (Blackboard or Moodle) learning system.

# Assessment Requirements

## 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 6 cpts and 0 cpt 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 cpts.

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 14, 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 14 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 14 at a seminar time to be scheduled.

## Examinations

### Assignment submission

It is a University requirement

(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/conduct/plagiarism-procedures.html>) for students to submit an assignment coversheet for each assessment item. Faculty Assignment coversheets can be found at <http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/resources/student/forms/>. Please check with your Lecturer on the submission method for your assignment coversheet (e.g. attach a file to the online assignment submission, hand-in a hard copy, or use an online quiz).

### 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

## Other Information

### 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>)
- Codes of Practice for Teaching and Learning  
(<http://www.policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/education/conduct/suppdocs/code-of-practice-tea>)

### 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.