FIT4444
Honours thesis final

Unit Guide

Semester 1, 2013

Last updated: 04 Mar 2013

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FIT4444 Honours thesis final - Semester 1, 2013

This unit is a research unit and a core requirement 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

- Caulfield (Day)
- Clayton (Day)
- South Africa (Day)

Contact Hours

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

Workload requirements

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 meetings with your supervisor.

Unit Relationships

Prohibitions

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

Co-requisites

FIT4443

Prerequisites

Admission to an FIT Honours program.

Chief Examiner

Dr David Squire

Campus Lecturer

Caulfield

Dr Tom Denison

Clayton

Dr Alan Dorin

South Africa

Dr Neil Manson

Academic Overview

Learning Outcomes

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.

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.	No formal assessment or activities are undertaken in week 0
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		Final Presentation: due Week 14 in the second semester of candidature at a time to be scheduled - 5% and Honours Thesis: due Week 15, Week 15, Friday 3pm in the second semester of candidature (or the first available week day previous to this date if the Friday falls on a University holiday) - 80%
	SWOT VAC	No formal assessment is undertaken in SWOT VAC
	Examination period	LINK to Assessment Policy: http://policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/assessment-in-coursework-policy.html

*Unit Schedule details will be maintained and communicated to you via your learning system.

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 thesis	Week 14 in the second semester of candidature at a time to be scheduled.
Honours Thesis (10,000 to 20,000	80% of the 24 cpt thesis	Week 15, Friday 3pm in the second semester of candidature (or the first available week day previous to this date if the

words)   Friday falls on a University holiday)

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.

Assessment Requirements

Assessment Policy

Faculty Policy - Unit Assessment Hurdles
(http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/resources/staff/edgov/policies/assessment-examinations/unit-assessment-hu

Academic Integrity - Please see the Demystifying Citing and Referencing tutorial at
http://lib.monash.edu/tutorials/citing/

Assessment Tasks

Hurdle Requirements

Non-assessable Hurdle - Interim Presentation (see Participation)

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.

FIT4444 Honours Thesis Final is a unit with an enrolled value of 6 cpts and 24 cpts achievable, taken over a single semester but forms the final part of a sequence of units that together allow a student to complete an Honours Thesis of 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:(approximately 3000 words) 5%;
- Literature Review:(approximately 6000 words) 10%;
- Interim Presentation: hurdle;

Assessment Requirements

- 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:

Final Presentation: 5%; Honours 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 5 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 presenter will be required to answer questions raised by their peers and the academic staff.
    Weighting:
    5% of the 24 cpt thesis
    Criteria for assessment:
    Content and Structure of Presentation - /**70**

    Presentation Delivery - /**30**

    Total - /100
    Due date:
    Week 14 in the second semester of candidature at a 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 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, Friday 3pm in the second semester of candidature (or the first available week day previous to this date if the Friday falls on a University holiday)

Learning resources

Monash Library Unit Reading List
http://readinglists.lib.monash.edu/index.html

Feedback to you

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

• Other: Supervisor meetings and seminar presentations.

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.

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).

Online submission

If Electronic Submission has been approved for your unit, please submit your work via the learning system for this unit, which you can access via links in the my.monash portal.

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:
www.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 in Coursework Programs;
  http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/assessment-in-coursework-po
- Special Consideration;
  http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/special-consideration-policy.ht
- 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/dates/
- Orientation and Transition; http://intranet.monash.edu.au/infotech/resources/students/orientation/
- Academic and Administrative Complaints and Grievances Policy;
  http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/management/complaints-grievance-policy.h
- Code of Practice for Teaching and Learning;
  http://www.policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/education/conduct/suppdocs/code-of-practice-teac

Graduate Attributes Policy

http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/management/monash-graduate-attributes-policy.ht

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 http://www.monash.edu.au/students. For Sunway see http://www.monash.edu.my/Student-services, and for South Africa see http://www.monash.ac.za/current/.

Monash University Library

The Monash University Library provides a range of services, resources and programs that enable you to save time and be more effective in your learning and research. Go to www.lib.monash.edu.au or the library tab in my.monash portal for more information. At Sunway, visit the Library and Learning Commons at http://www.lib.monash.edu.my/. At South Africa visit http://www.lib.monash.ac.za/.

Disability Liaison Unit

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://www.monash.edu/equity-diversity/disability/index.htmlTelephone: 03 9905 5704 to book an appointment with a DLO; or contact the Student Advisor, Student Commuity Services at 03 55146018 at SunwayEmail: dlu@monash.eduDrop In: Equity and Diversity Centre, Level 1, Building 55, Clayton Campus, or Student Community Services Department, Level 2, Building 2, Monash University, Sunway Campus

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 the Student Evaluation of Teaching and Units (SETU) survey. 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, see:

www.monash.edu.au/about/monash-directions and on student evaluations, see:
www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/quality/student-evaluation-policy.html