FIT5016
Minor thesis

Unit Guide

Semester 1, 2013

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FIT5016 Minor thesis - Semester 1, 2013

FIT5016 is an optional research/thesis unit for FIT coursework masters degrees, taken in the final stage of the Masters Professional or Masters course. While FIT5014 is a 24-point unit taken in a single semester, FIT5016 is a component of the 24-point Minor Thesis taken over more than one semester, along with FIT5018 or FIT5017. Before enrolling in the unit, students need:

1. to have prior approval from their course coordinator; and
2. to have reached agreement with a potential supervisor about a research area/feasible research topic for their Minor Thesis project.

Mode of Delivery

Gippsland (Off-campus)

Contact Hours

Regular meetings with supervisor(s) over the course of the unit enrolment

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

Co-requisites

FIT4005, taken in the first semester of enrolment (only in cases where enrolment in the Minor Thesis extends over more than one semester).

Prerequisites

Students must be enrolled in a Faculty of IT Masters (Honours), Masters Professional or Masters (Minor Thesis) course or the Master of Information Technology degree; FIT5016 is to be taken in the final stage of the course.

In undertaking the Minor Thesis students must have: (1) their course leaders approval to enrol in the unit; and (2) completed/enrolled concurrently in FIT4005 IT research methods. In addition, the following rules apply:

+ in the Masters Professional and Master of Information Technology courses, students must have completed at least 24 points of level 5 units in their degree and attained a Distinction average on their Masters coursework; and
+ in the Master of Information Technology (Honours) degree students must have completed at least 24 points of level 5 units in their degree.
Academic Overview

Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this unit students will have:

- A knowledge and understanding of:
  - their research topic and the wider research domain.
  - research approaches and methods, and how to resolve research problems and issues.
  - well honed skills in critical thinking, analysis, evaluation and synthesis.

Developed attitudes that enable them to:

- have confidence in their ability to undertake independent research, and to plan and execute an individual research project.
- appreciate the significance and contributions of a research culture in both academic and workplace contexts.

Developed the skills to:

- plan and undertake rigorous independent research;
- locate relevant research literature, and critically analyse and evaluate published research findings;
- identify open problems in current research and promising new research directions, and from this to define a viable research topic;
- develop a sound research design and feasible research project plan and schedule;
- communicate effectively research results in a variety of forms, including informal oral presentations, written reports, seminar presentations and poster presentations.

Although research projects are carried out individually, students will be part of a wider research group, with whom they will interact regularly, and participate in research seminars and discussions. At the completion of the unit students will have demonstrated the communication and teamwork skills necessary to:

- communicate research ideas effectively in formal or informal contexts;
- collaborate effectively with others involved in a research project (supervisors, research colleagues, industry collaborators).
# Unit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Thesis Topic selection</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Research Proposal due 3pm Friday week 6 - 5% of the 24 cpt thesis</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Literature Review due 3pm Friday week 14 - 10% of the 24 cpt thesis and Interim Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SWOT VAC</td>
<td>No formal assessment is undertaken in SWOT VAC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

## Assessment Summary

Presentation and final thesis: 100%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Task</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>5% of the 24 cpt thesis</td>
<td>Week 6, 3pm Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>10% of the 24 cpt thesis</td>
<td>Week 14, 3pm Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interim Presentation</td>
<td>This is a non-assessable hurdle requirement</td>
<td>Week 14 at a seminar time to be scheduled.</td>
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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

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

Assessment Tasks

Participation

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

Students enrolled prior to 2011 will select a combination of units resulting in the required credit point total of 24 cpts.

The 24 credit point exit point is applicable to:

- Master of Information Technology (Honours),
- Master of Information Technology Professional,
- Master of Business Information Systems (Honours).

FIT5016 Minor Thesis 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 a Minor Thesis of 24 cpts.

These units include:

- FIT5016 Minor Thesis - 6cpts
- FIT5017 Minor Thesis - 12cpts
- FIT5018 Minor Thesis - 18cpts
- FIT5014 Minor Thesis - 24cpts

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 Minor Thesis program but the overall grade for the thesis will only be finalised on completion of either 24 cpts.

Please refer to the Unit Guides for FIT5016, FIT5017, FIT5018, and FIT5014 for a description of the assessment items to be completed over the course of the Honours Thesis.
Assessment Requirements

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 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 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 Requirements

• **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 non-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.

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**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:

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**Returning assignments**

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

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**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:

Key educational policies include:

- Plagiarism;
  http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/conduct/plagiarism-policy.html
- Assessment in Coursework Programs;
- Special Consideration;
  http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/special-consideration-policy.html
- 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.html
- Code of Practice for Teaching and Learning;
- Graduate Attributes Policy
  http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/management/monash-graduate-attributes-policy.html

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/.
Other Information

**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.html Telephone: 03 9905 5704 to book an appointment with a DLO; or contact the Student Advisor, Student Community Services at 03 55146018 at Sunway Email: dlu@monash.edu Drop 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