

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

**Unit Guide**

**Semester 1, 2015**

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# **FIT4441 Honours thesis part 1 - Semester 1, 2015**

This unit is a research unit and a core unit for all Faculty of Information Technology 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.

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 pts) and FIT4448 (18 pts). The 24 credit point exit point is applicable to:

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

The 18 credit point exit point is applicable to:

Honours stream in the Bachelor of Software Engineering.

## **Mode of Delivery**

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

## **Workload Requirements**

Minimum total expected workload equals 12 hours per week. Students will be expected to hold regular meetings with supervisor(s) over the course of the semester.

See also Unit timetable information

## **Unit Relationships**

### **Prohibitions**

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

### **Co-requisites**

FIT4005

### **Prerequisites**

Admission to an FIT Honours program.

## **Chief Examiner**

**Dr David Albrecht**

## **Campus Lecturer**

### **Caulfield**

**Dr Pari Delir Haghighi**

### **Clayton**

**Dr David Albrecht**

### **South Africa**

**Dr Neil Manson**

## **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/](http://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](http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/quality/student-evaluation-policy.html)

# **Academic Overview**

## **Learning Outcomes**

On completion of the Honours thesis units, students should be able to:

1. design a rigorous Bachelor Honours level research project and develop project proposal;
2. critically review research literature, research design and reported findings;
3. evaluate and select research methods and techniques of data collection and analysis appropriate to particular research designs, projects and disciplines;
4. conduct ethical research;
5. communicate research findings in written and oral form in research and industry settings.

## 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. Due 3pm Friday in the first semester of candidature (or the first available week day previous to this date if the Friday falls on a University holiday)
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		Literature Review ** (Due week 14) 10% of the 24cpt thesis and Interim Presentation (** Students who are enrolled in a full time load but in only one 6 cpt thesis unit in the first semester of their Honours program may apply for an extension of up to 3 weeks to the submission date of this assessment task.)
	SWOT VAC	No formal assessment is undertaken in 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 learning system.

## 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 Summary

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 pts) or FIT4448 (18 pts).

Assessment Task	Value	Due Date
Research Proposal	5% of the 24 cpt or 18 cpt thesis	Week 6, 3pm Friday in the first semester of candidature (or the first available week day previous to this date if the Friday falls on a University holiday)
Literature Review	10% of the 24 cpt or 18 cpt thesis	Week 14 **, 3pm Friday in the first semester of candidature (or the first available week day previous to this date if the Friday falls on a University holiday) (** Students who are enrolled in a full time load but in only one 6 cpt thesis unit in the first semester of their Honours program may apply for an extension of up to 3 weeks to the submission date of this assessment task.)
Interim Presentation	This is a non-assessable hurdle requirement.	Week 14 in the first semester of candidature at a time to be scheduled.

# Assessment Requirements

## Assessment Policy

Faculty Policy - Unit Assessment Hurdles

(<http://intranet.monash.edu.au/infotech/resources/staff/edgov/policies/assessment-examinations/assessment-hurdles>)

Academic Integrity - Please see resources and tutorials at

<http://www.monash.edu/library/skills/resources/tutorials/academic-integrity/>

## Assessment Tasks

### Hurdle Requirements

Week 14 - Interim Presentation - This is a non-assessable hurdle requirement

### 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:(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:**

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

#### **• Assessment task 1**

##### **Title:**

Research Proposal

##### **Description:**

Create a research proposal (approximately 3000 words) 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:**

Criteria for assessment are:

1. Content of the proposal
2. Organisation of the proposal
3. Quality of writing
4. Quality of presentation
5. Accuracy of the bibliographical details

##### **Due date:**

Week 6, 3pm Friday in the first semester of candidature (or the first available week day previous to this date if the Friday falls on a University holiday)

#### **• Assessment task 2**

##### **Title:**

Literature Review

##### **Description:**

Create a literature review (approximately 6000 words) based on the agreed topic, which provides a critical review of the key literature in the content area. The argument constructed should be coherent and supported by an adequate number of relevant and correctly formatted references. The review should be structured in an appropriate scientific format, and it should be clearly and concisely expressed. The presentation should be of a professional standard and include a title page, table of contents, page numbering and references.

##### **Weighting:**

10% of the 24 cpt or 18 cpt thesis

##### **Criteria for assessment:**

Criteria for assessment are:

1. Depth of analysis of the chosen articles and their sources
2. Organisation of report
3. Quality of writing (including spelling and grammar)
4. Quality of presentation
5. Appropriate citation of sources

**Due date:**

Week 14 \*\*, 3pm Friday in the first semester of candidature (or the first available week day previous to this date if the Friday falls on a University holiday) (\*\* Students who are enrolled in a full time load but in only one 6 cpt thesis unit in the first semester of their Honours program may apply for an extension of up to 3 weeks to the submission date of this assessment task.)

• **Assessment task 3**

**Title:**

Interim Presentation

**Description:**

Provide a 20 minute (usually 15 mins present + 5 mins questions) 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:**

Criteria for assessment are:

1. Selection and organisation of content
2. Voice and language
3. Timing
4. Non-verbal communication (e.g., body language, eye contact)
5. Quality of visual aids

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

**Due date:**

Week 14 in the first semester of candidature at a time to be scheduled.

## Learning resources

Monash Library Unit Reading List (if applicable to the unit)

<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.monash.edu.au/exams/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/student-academic-integrity-managing-pla>) 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 electronic submission). Please note that it is your responsibility to retain copies of your assessments.

## **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](http://www.policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/education/index.html)

### Faculty resources and policies

Important student resources including Faculty policies are located at

<http://intranet.monash.edu.au/infotech/resources/students/>

### Graduate Attributes Policy

<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/management/monash-graduate-attributes-policy.h>

### Student Charter

[www.opq.monash.edu.au/ep/student-charter/monash-university-student-charter.html](http://www.opq.monash.edu.au/ep/student-charter/monash-university-student-charter.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 Malaysia 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](http://www.lib.monash.edu.au) or the library tab in [my.monash](#) portal for more information. At Malaysia, 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.html>
- Telephone: 03 9905 5704 to book an appointment with a DLO; or contact the Student Advisor, Student Community Services at 03 55146018 at Malaysia
- Email: [dlu@monash.edu](mailto: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, Malaysia Campus