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FIT5126 Masters thesis part 1 - Semester 1, 2015

This unit is a research unit common to FIT Masters degrees. Due to the nature of IT, a wide range of Masters project types can be offered to students. Some project components are of a practical nature and may involve software development and/or experimentation, while other components are of a more theoretical nature.

Mode of Delivery

- Caulfield (Day)
- Caulfield (Online)
- Malaysia (Evening)

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

Co-requisites

FIT5125

Prerequisites

Admission to an FIT Masters program.

Students must have successfully completed 24 points of level five non-foundation units and have achieved an overall average of at least 70% across all non-foundation units. Foundation units are (FIT9123 or FIT5123), (FIT9130 or FIT5130), (FIT9131 or FIT5131), (FIT9132 or FIT5132), (FIT9134 or FIT5134) and (FIT9135 or FIT5135).

Chief Examiner

Dr David Albrecht

Campus Lecturer

Caulfield

Dr Pari Delir Haghighi
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
Academic Overview

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the Masters thesis, students will be able to:

1. design a rigorous Masters 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>No formal assessment or activities are undertaken in week 0</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Research Proposal worth 5% 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). Interim Presentation (hurdle) due Week 14 in the first semester of candidature at a time to be scheduled</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Literature Review worth 10% due 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). Interim Presentation (hurdle) due Week 14 in the first semester of candidature at a time to be scheduled</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWOT VAC</td>
<td>No formal assessment is undertaken in SWOT VAC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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

This unit forms part of the sequence of units comprising the Masters Thesis in the Faculty of Information Technology.
The exit point is FIT5128 (18cpts). 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 15,000 - 25,000 words): 80%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Task</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>5% of the 18 cpt</td>
<td>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)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>10% of the 18 cpt</td>
<td>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)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interim Presentation</td>
<td>This is a non assessable hurdle requirement</td>
<td>Week 14 in the first semester of candidature at a time to be scheduled.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment Requirements

Assessment Policy

Faculty Policy - Unit Assessment Hurdles

Academic Integrity - Please see resources and tutorials at
http://www.monash.edu/library/skills/resources/tutorials/academic-integrity/

Assessment Tasks

Participation

This unit forms part of the sequence of units comprising the Masters Thesis in the Faculty of Information Technology.

The exit point for the Minor Thesis is FIT5128 - 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;
- 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 FIT5128 - 18 cpts.

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 18 cpts

  **Criteria for assessment:**
  Criteria for assessment are:

  1. Content of the proposal
Assessment Requirements

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 18 cpt

Criteria for assessment:
Criteria for assessment are:

1. Depth of analysis of the chosen article and its 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)

• 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

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-plagiarism-collusion-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 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

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.html

Student Charter


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 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
- 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