Individual Research Project

- Having successfully completed this module, you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:
  - The historical and current developments in an advanced aspect of your discipline, and an appreciation of likely future developments

- This project is not required to have a practical element, but some IRP projects do.

- It might be appropriate, for example:
  - to compare, in a uniform framework, the surveyed approaches
  - to complete or extend the work in the surveyed articles
  - to repeat a complex, hence suspect, measurement

- IRP is similar to the background reading stage of a PhD
Assessment elements

- You must agree a suitable area to research with your supervisor
  - Locate a group of 15 or so significant articles, 150 pages or so, relevant to the chosen topic. Ideally these articles should span a period of time, range of publication methods, and research institutions.
  - You should read and summarise these articles, producing a 8 page (using a two-column format) survey article indicating the background to the problem, the methods and results presented in your group of articles, a comparison and evaluation of approaches, and an indication of the outstanding or unsolved issues and problems.

- Percentage contribution:
  - Final report
    - Technical contribution 30%
    - Research context 20%
    - Writing 10%
    - Progress 10%
  - Poster and introduction to poster at Part IV Student Conference – 20%
  - Peer Review 10%
  - Read details of Marking Scheme on COMP6228 notes website
Key deadlines

### Key Dates and Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Briefing Lecture</td>
<td>Monday 29 January 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Project Brief</td>
<td>Thursday 14 February 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interim Report (not marked)</td>
<td>Thursday 15 March 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Report</td>
<td>Thursday 3 May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Presentation and Poster Electronically</td>
<td>Tuesday 8 May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Peer Review Electronically</td>
<td>Tuesday 17 May 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRP Student Conference</td>
<td>date and venue tba</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IRP Deliverables

Brief

For the project brief, please submit a document in pdf with two or three paragraphs. This should describe your project and list your objectives. Your brief will be used to assign a second examiner.

Final Report

You should choose a standard journal or conference format appropriate to your discipline - your supervisor will be able to advise you on this. For those using LaTeX this is easy as most publishers provide LaTeX style files that do most of the work for you.

Here are sample Word and LaTeX templates used by many academic journals and conferences:

IEEE Transactions and Journals Microsoft Word Template and Instructions (DOC)
IEEE Transactions and Journals LaTeX Template and Instructions (ZIP)
IEEE Transactions and Journals LaTeX Template and Instructions (TAR.GZ)

You should read and summarise these articles, producing a 8 page, using a two-column format, survey article indicating the background to the problem, the methods and results presented in your group of articles, a comparison and evaluation of approaches, and an indication of the outstanding, unsolved, issues and problems.

This should be the completed version of the report described above. It should be prepared as if it was going forward to publication - i.e. checked for spelling and other errors and of the highest quality you can produce.

One electronic copy should be submitted to the handin systems as per instructions in the assignment "Final Report".
IRP Deliverables 2

Poster

1. The poster page size should be A1 in portrait orientation.
2. Prepare your poster as a single slide and submit electronically in the Powerpoint format (ppt) or Acrobat PDF (pdf). Powerpoint is preferred but PDF is also acceptable. The School will arrange production of submitted posters prior to the IRP Conference.
3. Make sure that the project title, your name and your supervisor's name appear on the poster.
4. There are several pitfalls to avoid:
   - A poster may appear like a single slide on the screen but it can in fact contain a lot of technical information due to its size. An A1 sheet has the same area as 8 sheets of A4. So do not make your poster look like an advertising banner with huge fonts and little content. Your poster should present technical details of your work, just as your paper does.
   - Avoid the other extreme, which is the temptation to present too much detail. There should be a balance between text and pictures, and pictures usually attract more attention than text does. A good font size for text is 20-24pt. An absolute minimum is 14pt which can be used for footnotes, references etc.
5. A selection of past posters is available for your viewing by following from this link. You can use these posters as a good starting point when planning your own poster layout.

Presentation

1. The presentation should be 3 minutes long (based on a standard conference format of a 3 minute introduction to a poster).
2. Prepare your presentation as slides with notes of what you would say to accompany that slide. You will be marked from what you have written here as much as for your slides. Submit these electronically.
3. Ensure that if read out at a reasonable speed, your notes do not take longer than the prescribed presentation time of 3 minutes. A good guideline is to prepare only 3 slides and talk about each slide for about 1 minute.
4. Prepare your presentation in Powerpoint format (ppt) or Acrobat PDF (pdf). Powerpoint is preferred but PDF is also acceptable.
5. Avoid the temptation to present too much detail. The detail is in your poster which interested members of the audience can view after your talk. Do not forget that often the video projector you will be using may be of poor quality and there will be individuals in the audience who may not see as well as they used to. There should be a balance between text and pictures. A good font size for text is 20-24pt.
Peer Review

You should approach this section of the module as a peer asked to critically review an official document or piece of work with an aim to improve it. The form provided will guide you in this process. You will be marked for the quality of your feedback.

Peer Review Reports

Download Peer Review Form.

This peer review is based on a conference peer review feedback form. Fill it out as instructed.
Peer Review Form

COMP6018 Individual Research Project: Peer Review Form

You are asked to provide feedback as detailed below on another student’s report and rate their work. Your feedback may be made available to the student, so you should be polite and sensitive when making any negative remarks. You yourself will be assessed on the feedback you provide, and this assessment will contribute 10% overall to your mark for this double unit. You may write or type this feedback.

Report Title: What are Intelligent Sensors?

Report Author: Alexander S. Weddell

Your Name: Dimitrios Charitatos

1. Say how long you spent reading the report, how well you feel you understood it, and how confident you are in your judgements.

The task is to assess a peer’s individual research project with respect to the report’s, content, technical contribution, format and style of writing. The author of this review has successfully completed an individual project himself and feels knowledgeable on the ways technical reports should be written, formatted and presented. Regarding the content of the report, the author, studying Electronic Engineering, has sufficient background in order to understand the basic principles of the technology presented. However, not being familiar with particular details, some independent research was
**Poster Example**

(size A1, portrait)
Questions?

We need to try and at least understand the question, even if the answer is not clear

“The Answer to the Great Question... Of Life, the Universe and Everything... Is... Forty-two,' said Deep Thought, with infinite majesty and calm.”


The Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, The Universe, and Everything.
The number 42 is, in The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams, the "Answer to the Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe, and Everything", calculated by an enormous supercomputer named Deep Thought over a period of 7.5 million years. Unfortunately, no one knows what the question is.

The Ultimate Question “What do you get when you multiply six by nine” was found by Arthur Dent and Ford Prefect in the second book of the series, The Restaurant at the End of the Universe. This appeared first in the radio play and later in the novelization of The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy. In 1994 Adams created the 42 Puzzle, a game based on the number 42.