DHI Masters by Research

This note provides details of the DHI Masters by Research programme. This will comprise a cohort of (initially) 15 students, up to a maximum of 30 students, whose fees are funded by the SFC as part of the Innovation Centre support.

While the programme will be managed by Edinburgh University, students could be studying at any of the Scottish HEIs, depending on the MSc thesis topic and supervisor, and the precise title of the degree may vary with the degree awarding institution. For example, students will be supervised in the Institute for Design Innovation at Glasgow School of Art might undertake an MDes by Research.

The degree programme table for the MSc by Research in Informatics is attached to this document. This has provision for one-year full-time study or two years of part-time study. We envisage that some students will undertake part-time study while working on DHI-related projects for companies or public sector organisations.

This is a very flexible programme since all it requires is the submission of a dissertation to be assessed under the normal MSc by Research regulations. In the first year of operation we will use this standard programme. In order to ease administration and to clearly identify the students it may be desirable for all institutions supervising students on the programme to introduce a programme exclusively for the use of DHI-related Masters. A suggested title is “MSc by Research in Digital Health Innovation”.

Capturing Topics

The goal of the MSc by Research is to develop student’s skills in Digital Health Innovation. To achieve this, the topics for the MSc by Research will all be linked to DHI funded activities. Typically these will be Exploratories, Experience Labs and Factory Projects. As part of the standard DHI project proposal process there will be an additional stage where proposers are asked to indicate whether they think the proposed DHI project (or collection of projects) could support a student working on a related MSc project. If proposers elect to request a linked MSc student then they are required to provide a title, abstract, and initial reading list, MSc supervisor and institution at which the student will be enrolled on the programme. Normally an industry supervisor will also be specified. Since there are already DHI projects in operation we will also ask these already running projects if they believe they can support an MSc by Research Student. Since DHI staff see all the proposals there will also be a route for DHI staff to propose MSc topics that span a number of DHI projects.
We believe this process will result in a rich stream of proposed topics that are closely related to Digital Health Innovation.

Examples of the types of topics are:

**Title:** Security of Personally Held Data  
**Supervisor:** David Aspinall or Myrto Arapinis  
**Industry Supervisor:** Sitekit  
**Outline:** Policy languages are being proposed as a key element in developing flexible security for personally held data. The investigator will attend the series of exploratories on personally held data, work with participants to develop requirements on personally held data and the security requirements and will assess the extent to which modern policy languages can provide the necessary security in an effective and comprehensible manner. {This should be two paragraphs or so}.  
**Reading:** a list of 3 to 5 key references in the area.  
**Institution:** University of Edinburgh

**Title:** Crowdsourcing evidence  
**Supervisor:** Ken Turner  
**Outline:** It can be very difficult to get strong evidence of benefit from the deployment of assisted living devices in the home environment. This project will follow a DHI funded assisted living project. The aim of this project is to augment an assisted living device with anonymised logging to detect use of the device and whether the user is satisfied with its performance. The data will be aggregated over many users in the hope of generating a reasonably accurate picture of the group for whom the intervention is successful. This will involve developing the monitoring system and providing an analysis of the gathered data.  
**Reading:** a list of 3 to 5 key references  
**Institution:** Stirling University

**Marketing and Recruitment**  
Each participating HEI will publicise the programme through the standard prospectus and online recruitment channels. This will direct the student to the DHI maintained site of topics, supervisors and institutions. The DHI will maintain that site and ensure that the list of potential topics is up to data and refers to the appropriate recruitment channels for the participating HEIs. DHI will play a coordinating role but all administration dealing with the relationship between the student and the supervising HEI will be dealt with by the admin team at that HEI.
Selecting Students
The DHI website will display the list of topics and contact points being careful to point out that numbers are limited and that being accepted by a supervisor to undertake a topic will not necessarily guarantee a funded place. DHI will prioritise funding topics that most closely match the mission of DHI. The DHI website will include contact details of prospective supervisors and students will be encouraged to approach prospective supervisors directly.

Once a supervisor has decided they want to supervise a particular student/project combination and has approval from DHI on the award of the studentship, the student will apply to the appropriate programme at the relevant institution and the student will be funded by the SFC funded place. To be recruited the student must satisfy all the requirements of the recruiting HEI.

Milestones on Course
DHI is responsible for the management of the programme and will be expected to report to SFC on student progress. To help with the management of the course there will be four milestones throughout the year when students provide deliverables that can be used to check on their progress.

Week 10: In the first 10 weeks of the programme students are expected to plan their year of work in cooperation with their supervisor, choose an initial topic area and develop a literature review of work relevant to their topic area.
Week 20: For the next 10 weeks the student will be expected to develop a project proposal at some level of detail including a project plan and risk analysis. If ethics is required this should also have been identified as an issue and appropriate applications undertaken
Week 30: In week 30 the student will write and give a presentation on the current state of the project to their supervisor, industry or public sector collaborator and other MSc students. The aim is to ensure the project is well directed and likely to produce a thesis
Final Submission: Here the deliverable is the MSc dissertation submitted for external examination.

[For part-time students these milestones will be at weeks 20, 40, and 60, with final submission inside 104 weeks.]

For each milestone above the deliverable is emboldened and these items will be delivered to DHI at the appropriate point in the progression of the MSc project.
The HEI at which a student is enrolled may wish to add additional attendance and engagement monitoring points, as required by the regulations governing their Masters by Research.

**Examination**

Once a dissertation is complete, the relevant student will be examined under the regulation of the institution the student is enrolled in. The result of the examination will be reported back to DHI in order that DHI can report to SFC.

**Award**

If the student satisfies the standard for the award of Masters by Research, they will be awarded the appropriate degree at the HEI operating the programme they are enrolled on.

**Administration**

DHI will provide a dedicated resource that will work closely with the admin teams of the HEIs participating in the programme to ensure the effective administration of the programme. DHI support will include:

- Working with DHI-funded projects to capture potential MSc topics.
- Publicising potential topics via the DHI webpage.
- Working with DHI management on the selection of MSc projects to be supported.
- Maintaining a record of progress against the milestones.
- Recording the final outcome of the project.
- Reporting on the progress of the cohort to SFC.

For the period from January 2015 through December 2016, Professor Bonnie Webber (Informatics, Univ of Edinburgh) will serve as this dedicated resource, under the title *DHI Post-graduate Programme Administrator*.

**Implementation**

The DHI post-graduate training programme will be implemented as follows:

1. The first set of studentships will be announced in January 2015, with a second intake in September 2015. Each student in the programme will be associated with a DHI-funded Innovation Project while enrolled full-time or part-time for a Masters by Research or Masters of Design degree at one of Scotland’s HEIs.
2. Grant holders of current DHI projects and their academic partners (if they themselves are not academics) will be informed about the intended January 2015 start of the DHI post-graduate programme, so that they can identify Masters by Research and/or Masters of
Design topics that are linked to their projects and that they are prepared to supervise, set up any post-graduate mechanisms required by their HEI, and advertise for take-up of the studentships. The announcement will be drawn up by the Senior Academic, and circulated by secretarial or technical staff within DHI.

3. Topics proposed by DHI staff that span more than one DHI project (e.g., a comparative analysis of several smaller, topic-linked projects), will need to be taken on by a project holder at one of the relevant HEIs. It will be the responsibility of relevant DHI staff member to secure agreement from the project holder to supervise the student selected to work on the topic.

4. Staff within DHI (secretarial or technical) will ensure that the DHI website contains up-to-date information about the post-graduate programme and about DHI projects with linked studentships, identifying each prospective Masters by Research and Masters of Design topic, its prospective supervisor(s) and its host institution, as well as a pointer to the post-graduate recruitment channel at that institution. The Senior Academic will have responsibility for providing that information to the DHI staff.

5. Participating HEIs will be responsible for developing additional advertising about the programme and mounting it on their website.

6. Participating HEIs will be requested to brand the programme as a Masters by Research or Masters of Design in Digital Health Innovation, and where possible, provide copies of DHI-studentship dissertations for inclusion in the DHI CRM system.

7. The administrator will, on behalf of the DHI, expedite requests made by prospective supervisors to supervise a prospective MSc student on a given project, so that the student can start their MSc programmes along with their intended cohort. Decisions on the funding of these requests will be made by a committee comprising the DHI Knowledge Exchange and Research Director, the administrator and at least one additional academic from a Scottish HEI.

8. The administrator will oversee the development of any bespoke activities and/or short training courses for students in the DHI programme, together with DHI staff and the HEI staff with funded DHI projects. A list of relevant short training courses being given elsewhere within Scotland, that may be available to students in the programme, will be compiled by the administrator and DHI’s Knowledge Exchange and Research Director.

9. The administrator will keep overall track of students enrolled in the programme, including information about their dissertation, any examination that their HEI requires of them for graduation, and their graduation date. If possible, the administrator will also try to record information on the student’s initial career path following graduation.
# Degree Programme Table: Informatics (MSc by Research) (Full-time) (PRMScINFT77F)

## Notes:
This programme provides an opportunity to acquire research skills by undertaking independent research that's related to the School's on-going research programme.

## Programme Structure
The period of study for the degree is one year full-time or two years part-time.
You will be assigned a supervisor, and with his or her guidance will undertake independent research and write it up in a dissertation. While the emphasis is on independent research work, your supervisor will identify your training needs and may encourage you to attend research training classes and/or some taught courses in Informatics.

To be awarded the degree of MSc by Research, you will submit a dissertation for assessment by a Board of Examiners. This dissertation will be assessed under the regulations specified in the Research Assessment Regulations (see http://www.uea.ac.uk/academic_departments/academic_services/policies-regulations/guidlines/assessment). Examination may therefore include an oral. Your submitted dissertation should demonstrate that you have acquired an advanced level of knowledge and understanding in your chosen field of study and are capable of undertaking independent research.

## Compulsory Courses
This DPT has compulsory course(s).

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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## Course Options
This DPT has set(s) of course options with the following rules.