Issues with MInf project structure – B. Webb

Currently MInf students do one project over their fourth and fifth year, worth 40 credits in fourth year and 60 in fifth year. In principle this seems a good way for them to undertake something very substantive and get rich experience in research, and for some students the results are excellent. However in discussion with some other supervisors it appears that for many if not most MInf students, the format is not very successful. In particular, students often fail to do sufficient work in the fourth year (perhaps giving priority to other courses) and what is then accomplished by the end of the fifth year is not noticeably better than a good fourth year project. If this is common experience, then we need to address the structure or guidance for the MInf project. For example, we could strengthen the phase 1 requirements to expect a report more like the standard fourth year project (i.e. with implementations, results and discussion) that is a good basis for doing advanced work in the fifth year.