Changes to MSc Project Marking Guidelines

Following on from the previous Teaching Committee, some work has been done to harmonise the various versions of the marking guidelines for MSc project which appear on the different webpages. This has resulted in a single webpage which can be found at http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/courses/diss/diss.marking.guidelines.html

This single page is now intended to provide the information to both staff and students and avoid the problem of having multiple copies which can become inconsistent.

The modifications which have been made can be summarized as follows:

- All text has been put in descriptive form, rather than being written as instructions in the second person which were suitable for staff but not for students.
- Information about the use of Turnitin has been added.
- The instructions for awarding marks around the 40% boundary have been clarified and harmonized to be consistent with the current University regulations.
- The guidance on the typical range of marks for given assessments with respect to the basic and additional criteria has been made consistent.
- Some minor typos have been corrected.

This new page will also be linked to the marking form for MSc projects, replacing the instructions which are currently there:

https://webmark.inf.ed.ac.uk/note/msc/guidance
https://webmark.inf.ed.ac.uk/note/msc/examiners

Changes to MSc submission procedures

Currently the MSc students submit their dissertation through a web form and are asked to make any supplementary material, such as program code, available in an appropriate zip file in their home directory on DICE. Whilst this works fine for the dissertation document, there have been a number of problems with the directories on DICE.

The CO support for MSc project is extremely limited and there does not seem to be any guarantee that sufficient resource will be made available to instigate the appropriate changes to the submission webpage and underlying database before next August, although a computing project request has been submitted.

Therefore a proposed workaround for 2014 is that the students submit their dissertation and any associated material using the submit command that they are used to using for practical work. This is intended to be a temporary measure while we wait for a more substantial refresh of the database to be completed.

Jane Hillston 3/12/2013