

UG4 and MInf projects

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Project coordinator





Doing a project

- ❑ March: Select project
- ❑ Sept-Jan: Do work
- ❑ Fri 26 Jan: Submit interim report
- ❑ Jan-March: Do more work
- ❑ March: Write report
- ❑ Thu 5 Apr: Submit final report
- ❑ Week of 30 Apr: Presentation/demo

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Problem: Procrastination

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Problem: Procrastination

Solution: Planning and discipline



Managing your work

- Use periods of **light coursework**
 - Semester 1: weeks 1-5, from week 11
 - Semester 2: weeks 1-5 and 10-11
- **Plan!** Make a **schedule** with **subgoals**, explicitly consider **risks**
 - Get something basic working quickly
 - Then add improvements



Making your work count

- ❑ Use sources of **advice** wisely!
 - Your supervisor: meet regularly
 - Project group meetings
- ❑ Address the **assessment criteria!**
- ❑ Start writing early! **No** credit for work you did, but don't manage to write up

ASSESSMENT

The report is read independently by the project supervisor and a second member of staff (and, in some cases, by others). It must be self-contained and include all information relevant to the project since, in general, the readers will be unaware of the work undertaken, the difficulties encountered and the results obtained. The readers allocate a numerical mark after assessing the project work in terms of the following criteria:

BASIC CRITERIA

- Understanding of the problem
- Completion of the project ("Completion" covers achievement of the original objectives, achievement of modified objectives, or providing convincing evidence that the objectives are unachievable.)
- Quality of the work
- Quality of the report

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

- Knowledge of the literature
- Critical evaluation of previous work
- Critical evaluation of own work
- Justification of the design decisions
- Solution of any conceptual problems
- Amount of work

EXCEPTIONAL CRITERIA

- Evidence of originality
- Inclusion of publishable material



Working towards completion

- ❑ March: Select project
- ❑ Sept-Jan: Do work
- ❑ **Wed 17 Jan(?): Project report workshop**
- ❑ Fri 26 Jan: Submit interim report
- ❑ Jan-March: Do more work
- ❑ March: Write report
- ❑ **Thu 1 Mar(?): Project feedback day**
- ❑ Thu 5 Apr: Submit final report
- ❑ Week of 30 Apr: Presentation/demo



Minf projects

- ❑ Structured as two separately-assessed UG4 projects with same deadlines, activities, deliverables
- ❑ MInf4: self-contained project ending with extended explanation of planned additions/extensions (with points for this in the assessment criteria)
- ❑ MInf5: do the additions/extensions and write up as a self-contained project with a reminder of what was done for MInf4



Finally ...

- ❑ Your project should be the highlight of your time at university
- ❑ Don't forget to enjoy it!
- ❑ www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/courses/proj