



# Department of Computer Science

School of Engineering & Technology  
Islamic University of Science & Technology  
Kashmir, J&K - 192122

## Project Guide for Students

### Final year project information for students

Students taking degrees in MCA and MSc.IT carry out a substantial group project in their final year. Each project is supervised by a member of faculty, and assessed via written reports and presentations. The students are advised to go through the students' information/ guidelines immediately after entering the project semester.

#### Information/Guidelines:

##### A. Project Selection

An important part of your final year is your group project. There are two tasks you must accomplish straightaway (though not necessarily in this order):

- Select a project topic
- Find a Supervisor

Selecting a suitable project topic can seem quite daunting at first. To assist you there is a projects database (to be maintained by department) that contains a number of project suggestions made by members of faculty. Note that these are just suggestions for suitable topics and there is no requirement that you select one of them. In fact, we would encourage you to formulate your own ideas for a project. The suggestions are provided as a guide and to help you understand the scale of the project you should be attempting.

You should use the projects database to view the list of potential project supervisors, request a particular project or suggest your own project to a supervisor of your choice.

Ideally, you should have selected your project supervisor and project topic by the first week of the project semester, which is required to be formally informed to the project coordinator through a written application. If you haven't managed to do so by this point, then the department will assign a project supervisor for you who can help you develop a project idea.

#### Guidelines for Topic Selection:

Some of the general factors for topic selection that may be considered by supervisors and students are outlined as:

- a. Trends in IT
- b. Employability

Other factors that need to be considered essentially by the students while selecting the topic for their project work are:

- A topic that they are curious about.
- A topic that interests the students.



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## Project Guide for Students

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- A topic that is manageable.
- A topic that is significant.
- Avoid over-exhausted topics.
- A topic that is challenging but achievable.
- A topic for which the sources are available.

### **B. Project Supervision**

Supervision is provided by project supervisor and/or co-supervisor. Your project supervisor will advise you on any technical aspects of completing your chosen project. The expectation is that your project supervisor will meet with you at least twice a week to discuss project progress. Initially, they will assess whether your project ideas are suitable, and can help you improve them where needed. Another crucial role that supervisors fulfill is to read and comment on draft versions of the synopsis presentation slides and synopsis report that you intend to submit/present. Given that your supervisor also examines these reports, it is in your interests to take advantage of this.

Normally, your project supervisor will lecture in the area you have selected for your project. However, because there is a limit on how many projects each member of faculty is expected to supervise, there is no guarantee that you will get the project supervisor of your choice. All the faculty members are capable of offering you good advice on your project, no matter what the topic.

The way in which supervisions are organized will vary depending on your supervisor. Meetings (i.e. the information regarding the meetings) will be planned through the emails. Email is the primary means for supervisors to contact supervisees so it is important that you check your email regularly.

It is not possible to produce a successful project report based solely on a period of intense activity immediately before the final deadline for dissertation submission, as you may be tempted (ill-advisedly) to do for other modules. You should work consistently and effectively throughout the duration of the project. It is often worthwhile writing drafts of the final report while carrying out the work — it is easier to write up the system design just after you have finished it than to write about it months later.

To keep within the deadlines you will have to make regular progress and remember where your time has gone. To help you to do this you should record your project-related activity in a log. The log is a weekly record of work you have engaged in to meet your objectives. You should start the log right at the beginning of the year, and include records of meetings with your supervisor. You should meet with your supervisor regularly taking your log along to review progress.



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### C. Project timescale

You should submit a number of written documents throughout the project. The deadlines for these and timings of other project activities are listed below:

- ✓ Look into the projects database (to be maintained by the department) and consider possible project topics and potential supervisors: week 1 of project semester
- ✓ Assignment of supervisor(s): week 2 of project semester
- ✓ Synopsis presentation: week 3
- ✓ Synopsis Approval: week 3
- ✓ Synopsis submission (hard copy): week 4, duly recommended and approved by supervisor(s) and submitted to project coordinator.
- ✓ Interim report: Week 4 onwards till another 2 months, to be submitted to the supervisor(s).
- ✓ Internal Project presentation and draft dissertation: week 12, dissertation to be submitted supervisor(s) for their remarks.
- ✓ Final dissertation submission: Week 14, to be submitted to project coordinator.
- ✓ External Project presentation: week 15- 16.

**All deadline information in these instructions is for guidance only. For official deadlines consult Project Calendar.**

You will be formally assessed on the interim report, the final dissertation report, and the project presentation (both internal and external). Below are detailed descriptions of each of the documents and assessments:

### Project Synopsis

At the start of your project you will be expected to read any relevant background references and to prepare your synopsis (approximately 3-4 A4 sheets) describing the problem that you have undertaken as project work, the objectives of your project and how you plan to meet those objectives. It is mandatory that you strictly follow the synopsis format to prepare your synopsis. The synopsis format is circulated to each group and supervisors in the 2nd week of project semester. You need to present your synopsis and if the synopsis is approved by the synopsis evaluation committee then you need to get your synopsis recommended by your supervisors before you finally submit the synopsis report in the office of the project coordinator. In case you synopsis is rejected then you need to reframe your synopsis/ change the title & synopsis with the help of your supervisors. The synopsis thus formed needs to be presented and evaluated by the committee all over again. In any case you need dual approval of synopsis i.e. approval by the committee and supervisors. There is no scope of change in title and/ or synopsis after its approval.

The proposal/synopsis should be sent directly to your supervisor for initial approval and then presented before the committee for final approval.



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## Project Guide for Students

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### Interim report and Draft documents

You are required to sign an interim report maintained by your supervisor. This report is formally assessed together with the draft documents. Interim Project Report describes the progress of the groups' w.r.t. identified objectives (expected achievement of one objective per week), weekly attendance/ meetings (twice a week) and progress status. Therefore, the Interim report helps to compute project completion status vis-à-vis identified objectives. Accomplishment of an objective contributes 15% to the total progress of the project.

Accomplishment of objectives is a joint responsibility of the students and assigned supervisors and/ or co-supervisors. Non-compliance (if any) will invoke strict disciplinary actions against the project group(s).

Furthermore, MCA students are expected to submit periodic (weekly) draft documents for each step accomplished in SDLC (or any other methodology used) like SRS, System Design, Implementation, Testing etc. while as MSc.IT students shall submit draft review documents. The draft documents are regularly reviewed and evaluated for quality by the supervisor and/or co-supervisor. The feedback provided by supervisor and/or co-supervisor needs to be recorded in a log book both by supervisor and/or co-supervisor and students. The interim report and the log is used by the supervisor and/ or co-supervisor to evaluate the students' performance and assign marks (score) to them accordingly. The score gained by students in this phase amounts to 15% of the total score of the project work. You are expected to use log book to proceed in your project work based on the feedback and then compile quality documents (which eventually becomes the final report or dissertation) after each draft modified is by the students and evaluated/approved by the supervisor and/ co-supervisor.

### Final report/ Dissertation

You need to submit your final report/ dissertation to your supervisor immediately after internal project presentation. The format of the dissertation must be collected from the department (downloaded from the website) or project coordinator. Before final dissertation is submitted to the department or project coordinator, students are supposed to submit hard copy of draft dissertation to their assigned supervisor and/ or co-supervisor. Supervisor and/ or co-supervisor are supposed to thoroughly check/ review the dissertation albeit in a stipulated time period. Besides ensuring that desired format is followed, it is a joint responsibility of the students and assigned supervisor and/ or co-supervisor to ensure that final copy of the dissertation is an authentic record of project work carried out under his/ her supervision. The dissertation report counts up to 40% of the total project score to be assigned by guide.

After final review and approval of dissertation by your supervisor(s) you need to submit with the project coordinator of your department, 3 final dissertation hard copies (check format) duly signed by your supervisors and HOD, one for the departmental record of your project work, one guides copy and one copy for library.



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### **Project presentations**

In addition to writing the report, you will be assessed on your ability to present your project work. The project presentations take the form of: (1) Internal Presentation (2) External Presentation.

The Internal presentation will take the form of presentation/ seminar that will be conducted by the department. The committee evaluates the cumulative progress of the groups using various evaluation parameters. The score in internal evaluation amounts to 15% of the total score of the project work. Besides evaluation, committee will give you the necessary suggestions/ feedback. You might need to repeat the presentation (notified separately) in case internal evaluation committee finds that the desired objectives, as identified in "Evaluation of Synopsis" phase have not been fulfilled. Supervisors and/ or co-supervisor will have to be mandatorily present during evaluation of his/ her assigned group.

External presentation officially marks the end of the process. Dates of the external presentation are notified a week prior. The external evaluation score gained by you amounts to 30% of the total score of the project.

### **Take a minute to ponder on this (project and your employability)**

Undertaking a project can be challenging and exciting. It is challenging because a tremendous amount of self-discipline, time and effort needs to be put into it. It is exciting because a successful project rewards with great satisfaction and experiential learning. The project requires the amalgamation of different kinds of skills, like problem solving skills, studying and working in a team and communication(both written and spoken) skills. It stretches your ability to limits you never thought were possible. It gives you something you can talk about knowledgeably and enthusiastically to prospective employers. Projects are a great opportunity for you to demonstrate your creative abilities and independence. The project is an excellent indicator of a student's overall ability to carry out a serious piece of work, and therefore employers are impressed by a well-executed project.