Module Descriptor

Title	Masters Project		
Session	2025/26	**Status**	Published
Code	COMP11024	**SCQF Level**	11
Credit Points	60	**ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)**	30
School	**Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences**		
Module Co-ordinator	Daune West		

Summary of Module

The Masters project is designed to enable students to demonstrate their ability to present sustained rational arguments and independent conclusions based on a body of personal research. The content and output of the project must relate to the student's Programme of Study. Projects exploring a solution to a 'live' business opportunity/problem are welcomed. However, all projects must be supported by a clear academic underpinning which can be demonstrated in the literature review.

In the case of software specifications or designs, the arguments used are likely to relate to the critical evaluation of the requirements and in the assessment of alternative tools, methods and solutions that could be employed, and the conclusions will concern the justification for the particular choices made. Alternatively, the project may be primarily concerned with the evaluation of some existing tool or technique or software system, and the arguments shall be concerned with the development and application of criteria in performing such an assessment. Additionally, projects may require the gathering of empirical evidence by directly testing such tools or systems, and/or by seeking information from those who use (or would use in the case of a system to be developed) the system about aspects of its use. In such cases the student will need to present arguments to justify the approach taken in obtaining such evidence and to present it in such a way as to support the conclusions that can be drawn (or not drawn) from it. All projects must contain a clear, practical computing component as their primary research.

Undertaking this module will provide the student with the opportunity to develop the following UWS graduate attributes: Universal: critical thinker, analytical, inquiring, ethically minded, research-minded; Work-ready: knowledgeable, problem-solver, effective communicator, motivated, potential leader, enterprising; Successful: Autonomous, innovative, creative resilient, driven, transformational.

Module Delivery Method	On-Campus[1] ☒	Hybrid[2] ☐	Online[3] ☐	Work -Based Learning[4] ☐
Campuses for Module Delivery	☐ Ayr ☐ Dumfries	☒ Lanarkshire ☒ London ☒ Paisley	☒ Online / Distance Learning ☐ Other (specify)	

Terms for Module Delivery	Term 1	☒	Term 2	☒	Term 3	☒
Long-thin Delivery over more than one Term	Term 1 – Term 2	☐	Term 2 – Term 3	☐	Term 3 – Term 1	☐

Learning Outcomes	
L1	produce a MSc level project specification (relevant to the domain of the student's specific degree programme)
L2	demonstrate a systematic and critical understanding of the approaches available to address problems and create knowledge and useful artifacts (relevant to the domain of the student's specific degree programme), and of the underlying theoretical assumptions and concepts of such approaches
L3	demonstrate an ability to select and apply in a critical and reflective fashion, appropriate research and/or development techniques in producing a solution or solutions to a practical problem (in an area relevant to the student's specific degree programme)
L4	critically and reflectively plan and execute a project to develop an artifact that is fit for purpose in addressing a stated problem (relevant to the domain of the student's specific degree programme)
L5	present a detailed, well-argued and coherent report of a sustained independent work of high quality that fulfils an agreed specification in both written (report) and verbal format (viva/demo).

Employability Skills and Personal Development Planning (PDP) Skills	
SCQF Headings	**During completion of this module, there will be an opportunity to achieve core skills in:**
Knowledge and Understanding (K and U)	**SCQF 11**

[1] Where contact hours are synchronous/ live and take place fully on campus. Campus-based learning is focused on providing an interactive learning experience supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[2] The module includes a combination of synchronous/ live on-campus and online learning events. These will be supported by a range of digitally-enabled asynchronous learning opportunities including learning materials, resources, and opportunities provided via the virtual learning environment. On-campus and online contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[3] Where all learning is solely delivered by web-based or internet-based technologies and the participants can engage in all learning activities through these means. All required contact hours will be clearly articulated to students.

[4] Learning activities where the main location for the learning experience is in the workplace. All required contact hours, whether online or on campus, will be clearly articulated to students

	Research Specification, Literature reviews, Research Methodologies, Data Collection and Analysis, Reporting, in-depth knowledge of their chosen research area
Practice: Applied Knowledge and Understanding	**SCQF 11** Conducting a literature search, identifying appropriate research methodologies and techniques, gathering and making sense of data; writing a research report, developing a technical artifact where relevant
Generic Cognitive skills	**SCQF 11** Research, Analysis, Reporting, Critical Evaluation and Reflection
Communication, ICT and Numeracy Skills	**SCQF 11** Use of appropriate ICT in achieving the research objectives e.g. in developing artefacts or data collection/analysis; presenting the results of the project in an appropriate, academic format.
Autonomy, Accountability and Working with Others	**SCQF 11** Taking on responsibility for the selection of the research topic and ownership of the research process including integrity in the use of sources. Understanding the application of ethical principles in research; managing and respecting potential research collaborators, 'users', 'clients', and any others who may contribute tot eh student's project. Able to conduct and report a piece of research following given ethical guidelines.

Prerequisites	**Module Code** COMP11017	**Module Title** Research Design & Methods
	Other COMP09092 - Research Methods in Computing	
Co-requisites	**Module Code**	**Module Title**

Learning and Teaching	
In line with current learning and teaching principles, a 20-credit module includes 200 learning hours, normally including a minimum of 36 contact hours and maximum of 48 contact hours. Students taking this module are expected to have already undertaken COMP11017 or another Research Methods module. There are 2 start of module lectures to take students through the project process and ensure they have read and understood the student Handbook. Students then work closely with their project supervisors. Students complete a project specification at the start of the module which needs to be agreed by their supervisor and moderator. Halfway through the module the student is required to submit an interim report which allows formal formative feedback to be given by both supervisor and/or moderator. The content of this interim report can be used in the student's final report. Both the specification and interim report are mandatory although not assessed. Students are advised to discuss and arrange contact time with their supervisors (usually about 8-10 hours during the term). This contact is managed and recorded using the project process documentation.	
Learning Activities During completion of this module, the learning activities undertaken to achieve the module learning outcomes are stated below:	**Student Learning Hours** (Note: Learning hours include both contact hours and hours spent on other learning activities)

Lecture / Core Content Delivery	2
Tutorial / Synchronous Support Activity	
Independent Study	598
Please select	
Please select	
Please select	
TOTAL	600

Indicative Resources

The following materials form essential underpinning for the module content and ultimately for the learning outcomes:

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Mbanaso, U.M., Abrahams, L and Okafor, K.C. (2023) Research Techniques for Computer Science, Information Systems and Cybersecurity, Springer Cham

Oates, B., Griffiths, M. and McLean, R. (2022) Researching Information Systems and Computing, Sage

For some projects:

Oracle VirtualBox with images for Linux and Windows

VirtualBox Extension Pack (available under Oracle PUEL) for access to VMs using RDP

(N.B. Although reading lists should include current publications, students are advised (particularly for material marked with an asterisk*) to wait until the start of session for confirmation of the most up-to-date material)

Attendance and Engagement Requirements

In line with the Student Attendance and Engagement Procedure, Students are academically engaged if they are regularly attending and participating in timetabled on-campus and online teaching sessions, asynchronous online learning activities, course-related learning resources, and complete assessments and submit these on time.

For the purposes of this module, academic engagement equates to the following:

The School of Computing, Engineering and Physical Sciences considers attendance and engagement to mean a commitment to attending, and engaging in, timetabled sessions. You will scan your attendance via the scanners each time you are on-campus and you will login to the VLE several times per week. Where you are unable to attend a timetabled learning session due to illness or other circumstance, you should notify the Programme Leader that you cannot attend. Across the School an 80% attendance threshold is set. If you fall below this, you will be referred to the Student Success Team to see how we can best support your studies.

Equality and Diversity

The University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Procedure can be accessed at the following link: UWS Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Code.

Aligned with the University's commitment to equality and diversity, this module supports equality of opportunity for students from all backgrounds and learning needs. Using the VLE, material will be presented electronically in formats that allow flexible access and

manipulation of content. This module complies with University regulations and guidance on inclusive learning and teaching practice. Specialist assistive equipment, support provision and adjustment to assessment practice in accordance with the University's policies and regulations.
(N.B. Every effort will be made by the University to accommodate any equality and diversity issues brought to the attention of the School)

Supplemental Information

Divisional Programme Board	**Computing**
Overall Assessment Results	☐ **Pass / Fail** ☒ **Graded**
Module Eligible for Compensation	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No** **If this module is eligible for compensation, there may be cases where compensation is not permitted due to programme accreditation requirements. Please check the associated programme specification for details.**
School Assessment Board	Business & Applied Computing
Moderator	Santiago Matalonga
External Examiner	R Menzies
Accreditation Details	BCS
Module Appears in CPD catalogue	☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**
Changes / Version Number	2.15

Assessment (also refer to Assessment Outcomes Grids below)
Assessment 1
Report (60%): The module offers 2 choices of written assessment output. Students can either submit (a) a 'traditional' written report (maximum 18000 words) or (b) an output in the form of a paper suitable for a peer reviewed journal publication (no submission or acceptance by the selected journal is necessary for the MSc Project). Choice of the latter output should be agreed with the supervisor (who will advise on a suitable journal) and the module co-ordinator. Guidelines as to the type of project appropriate for the journal paper output will be provided by individual supervisors. Regardless of chosen final output the module requires: Production and approval of a formal project specification which outlines the research topic, initial sources of information, suggests a suitable research methodology and an appropriate marking scheme. 0% (formative assessment only) Production of an interim report approximately half way through the body of work to allow formal feedback from supervisor and moderator (maximum of 8000 words). 0% (formative but mandatory assessment only) A final written report/paper detailing the work of the Masters Project (maximum 18000 words or limit set by the chosen journal) worth 60% of the module mark
Assessment 2
Process (20%) A project process mark worth 20% of the module mark (awarded by the supervisor).

Assessment 3
Viva/demo (20%) A viva/demo which is to take place after submission of the final report/paper ('defence' of the work submitted) worth 20% of the module mark All of the elements are compulsory. A minimum overall mark of 50% is required to achieve a pass in this module and 40% in each of the 3 components (report, process, viva/demo) Project duration: full-time = 15 weeks; part-time = 30 weeks The project is marked by both supervisor and moderator independently and a mark agreed. If a mark cannot be agreed, then a third marker is sought. A discussion will then take place between the 3 markers and an agreement of a mark between at least two of the markers will be taken as the final mark.
(N.B. (i) Assessment Outcomes Grids for the module (one for each component) can be found below which clearly demonstrate how the learning outcomes of the module will be assessed. (ii) An indicative schedule listing approximate times within the academic calendar when assessment is likely to feature will be provided within the Student Module Handbook.)

Component 1							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Report	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	60	0

Component 2							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Process Documentation	☐	☒	☒	☒	☐	20	0

Component 3							
Assessment Type	**LO1**	**LO2**	**LO3**	**LO4**	**LO5**	**Weighting of Assessment Element (%)**	**Timetabled Contact Hours**
Viva/demo	☐	☒	☒	☐	☒	20	1
Combined total for all components						100%	1 hours

Change Control

What	**When**	**Who**
Attendance Update & EDI Update	20/01/2024	A Adamson
Contact hours corrected. Text added in L&T section to summarise process of the project. Accreditaion added, CPD-N, update change control	11/02/2025	D West
