FIT6021
Advanced research methods 1

Unit Guide

Semester 2, 2013

The information contained in this unit guide is correct at time of publication. The University has the right to change any of the elements contained in this document at any time.

Last updated: 25 Jun 2013
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The aim of the unit is to prepare PhD candidates from the Faculty of IT to conduct research across the range of the disciplines that cover Information and Communication Technology (ICT) research, including computer science, software engineering, at the technical end, and organisational and social informatics, which address societal needs in ICT. This unit is compulsory for all students enrolled in the FIT PhD program.

The unit comprises five workshops, which address the broad philosophical, methodological and ethical underpinnings of conducting research in ICT, as well as classical and modern approaches to designing data collection and analysis for rigorous and sophisticated ICT research studies. Students have the option to choose from a list of available workshops.

Mode of Delivery

- Caulfield (Day)
- Clayton (Day)

Contact Hours

Each workshop has seven hours of face-to-face contact plus 24 hours of individual study time per semester.

Workload requirements

You are expected to spend 3.5 hours per week participating in workshop activities and 12 hours per week in reading, preparing for workshops completing learning tasks, communicating with other students and workshop leaders in discussion forums, and undertaking formal assessment work.

Unit Relationships

Prerequisites

FIT4005 or FIT5185

Chief Examiner

Professor Sue McKemmish

Campus Lecturer

Caulfield

Professor Sue McKemmish

Consultation hours: By appointment. Use email to arrange appointments.

Professor Julie Fisher
Consultation hours: By appointment. Use email to arrange appointments.

Clayton

Professor David Green

Consultation hours: By appointment. Use email to arrange appointments.

Associate Professor Kevin Korb

Consultation hours: By appointment. Use email to arrange appointments.
Academic Overview

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, students should be able to:

- design rigorous and ethical research studies;
- conduct high quality independent ICT research;
- assess research design across a range of research strategies and paradigms;
- consider and evaluate appropriate data collection instruments, and sampling strategies to fit the research purpose;
- understand the key principles of ethical and professional research conduct;
- understand the key principles of research presentation.
## Unit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>The unit comprises five workshops. Each workshop runs over two weeks. Students choose from a list of available workshops. The list is available via the Moodle site for this unit.</td>
<td>Each workshop will include an associated assessable task. Details are available via the Moodle site for this unit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction to the Workshops</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Review of the Workshops</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SWOT VAC</td>
<td>No formal assessment is undertaken during SWOT VAC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Unit Schedule details will be maintained and communicated to you via your learning system.

## Assessment Summary

In semester assessment: 100%

Each workshop will include an associated assessable task, which will comprise a portfolio of results to contribute 20% to the final assessment. These will comprise written and oral presentations to be performed individually and/or in groups. To pass this unit, students must achieve at least a total mark of 70% from five workshops, and must achieve at least 50% in each workshop.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Task</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workshop Portfolio 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Details are available via the Moodle site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop Portfolio 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Details are available via the Moodle site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop Portfolio 3</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Details are provided on the Moodle site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop Portfolio 4</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Details are available via the Moodle site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop Portfolio 5</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Details are available via the Moodle site.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Teaching Approach

Workshops

Workshops will include presentations which address the broad philosophical, methodological and ethical underpinnings of conducting research in ICT, as well as individual and group learning activities relating to classical and modern approaches to designing data collection and analysis for rigorous and sophisticated ICT research studies.
Assessment Requirements

Assessment Policy

Faculty Policy - Unit Assessment Hurdles (http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/resources/staff/edgov/policies/assessment-examinations/unit-assessment-hurdles.html)

Academic Integrity - Please see the Demystifying Citing and Referencing tutorial at http://lib.monash.edu/tutorials/citing/

Assessment Tasks

Hurdle Requirements

To pass this unit, students must achieve at least a total mark of 70% from five workshops, and must achieve at least 50% in each workshop.

Participation

Participation in five workshops and workshop-related activities is required. Participation will be judged by criteria relating to the assessments associated with each workshop.

• Assessment task 1

  Title: Workshop Portfolio 1
  Description: Each workshop will include an associated assessable task, which will comprise a portfolio of assessable activities. These will comprise individual and group written submissions and oral presentations. Details of the portfolio activities for each workshop are available via the Moodle site.
  Weighting: 20%
  Criteria for assessment: Details of criteria for assessment are available via the Moodle site.
  Hurdle requirements: Students must achieve at least 50% of the marks for each workshop portfolio.
  Due date: Details are available via the Moodle site.

• Assessment task 2

  Title: Workshop Portfolio 2
  Description: Each workshop will include an associated assessable task, which will comprise a portfolio of assessable activities. These will comprise individual and group written submissions and oral presentations. Details of the portfolio activities for each workshop are available via the Moodle site.
  Weighting: 20%
Assessment Requirements

Criteria for assessment: Details are available via the Moodle site.

Hurdle requirements: Students must achieve at least 50% of the marks for each workshop portfolio.

Due date: Details are available via the Moodle site.

• Assessment task 3

Title: Workshop Portfolio 3
Description: Each workshop will include an associated assessable task, which will comprise a portfolio of assessable activities. These will comprise individual and group written submissions and oral presentations. Details of the portfolio activities for each workshop are available via the Moodle site.
Weighting: 20%
Criteria for assessment: Details are provided on the Moodle site.
Hurdle requirements: Students must achieve at least 50% of the marks for each workshop portfolio.
Due date: Details are provided on the Moodle site.

• Assessment task 4

Title: Workshop Portfolio 4
Description: Each workshop will include an associated assessable task, which will comprise a portfolio of assessable activities. These will comprise individual and group written submissions and oral presentations. Details of the portfolio activities for each workshop are available via the Moodle site.
Weighting: 20%
Criteria for assessment: Details are provided on the Moodle site.
Hurdle requirements: Students must achieve at least 50% of the marks for each workshop portfolio.
Due date: Details are available via the Moodle site.

• Assessment task 5

Title: Workshop Portfolio 5
Description: Each workshop will include an associated assessable task, which will comprise a portfolio of assessable activities. These will comprise individual and group written submissions and oral presentations. Details of the portfolio activities for each workshop are available via the Moodle site.
Weighting: 20%
Assessment Requirements

Criteria for assessment:
Details are available via Moodle site.

Hurdle requirements:
Students must achieve at least 50% of the marks for each workshop portfolio.

Due date:
Details are available via the Moodle site.

Learning resources

Monash Library Unit Reading List
http://readinglists.lib.monash.edu/index.html

Feedback to you

Types of feedback you can expect to receive in this unit are:

- Graded assignments with comments

Extensions and penalties

Submission must be made by the due date otherwise penalties will be enforced.

You must negotiate any extensions formally with your campus unit leader via the in-semester special consideration process: http://www.monash.edu.au/exams/special-consideration.html

Returning assignments

Students can expect assignments to be returned within two weeks of the submission date or after receipt, whichever is later.

Assignment submission

It is a University requirement (http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/conduct/plagiarism-procedures.html) for students to submit an assignment coversheet for each assessment item. Faculty Assignment coversheets can be found at http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/resources/student/forms/. Please check with your Lecturer on the submission method for your assignment coversheet (e.g. attach a file to the online assignment submission, hand-in a hard copy, or use an online quiz).

Online submission

If Electronic Submission has been approved for your unit, please submit your work via the learning system for this unit, which you can access via links in the my.monash portal.
Other Information

Policies

Monash has educational policies, procedures and guidelines, which are designed to ensure that staff and students are aware of the University’s academic standards, and to provide advice on how they might uphold them. You can find Monash’s Education Policies at: www.policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/education/index.html

Key educational policies include:

- Plagiarism; http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/conduct/plagiarism-policy.html
- Special Consideration; http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/special-consideration-policy.html
- Grading Scale; http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/grading-scale-policy.html
- Discipline: Student Policy; http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/conduct/student-discipline-policy.html
- Academic Calendar and Semesters; http://www.monash.edu.au/students/dates/
- Orientation and Transition; http://intranet.monash.edu.au/infotech/resources/students/orientation/
- Graduate Attributes Policy http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/management/monash-graduate-attributes-policy.html

Student services

The University provides many different kinds of support services for you. Contact your tutor if you need advice and see the range of services available at http://www.monash.edu.au/students. For Sunway see http://www.monash.edu.my/Student-services, and for South Africa see http://www.monash.ac.za/current/.

Monash University Library

The Monash University Library provides a range of services, resources and programs that enable you to save time and be more effective in your learning and research. Go to www.lib.monash.edu.au or the library tab in my.monash portal for more information. At Sunway, visit the Library and Learning Commons at http://www.lib.monash.edu.my/. At South Africa visit http://www.lib.monash.ac.za/.
Disability Liaison Unit

Students who have a disability or medical condition are welcome to contact the Disability Liaison Unit to discuss academic support services. Disability Liaison Officers (DLOs) visit all Victorian campuses on a regular basis.

Website: http://www.monash.edu/equity-diversity/disability/index.html Telephone: 03 9905 5704 to book an appointment with a DLO; or contact the Student Advisor, Student Community Services at 03 55146018 at Sunway Email: dlu@monash.edu Drop In: Equity and Diversity Centre, Level 1, Building 55, Clayton Campus, or Student Community Services Department, Level 2, Building 2, Monash University, Sunway Campus

Your feedback to Us

Monash is committed to excellence in education and regularly seeks feedback from students, employers and staff. One of the key formal ways students have to provide feedback is through the Student Evaluation of Teaching and Units (SETU) survey. The University’s student evaluation policy requires that every unit is evaluated each year. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the surveys. The feedback is anonymous and provides the Faculty with evidence of aspects that students are satisfied and areas for improvement.

For more information on Monash’s educational strategy, see:

www.monash.edu.au/about/monash-directions and on student evaluations, see:
www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/quality/student-evaluation-policy.html