

School of Mathematics and Statistics

8959 Data Science and Decisions

Master Project Guidelines

1 Introduction

The project is a compulsory part of any Master by coursework program and is worth 12 Units of Credit (UoC) over two consecutive terms. It involves writing a thesis, i.e., a coherent written exposition of a chosen topic. The project gives the student an opportunity to make practical use of the knowledge gained through their Master, and to learn to work independently. It prepares the student for the problem -solving and report- writing aspects of future employment, or for progression to a research degree. The thesis could include a literature survey and a critical analysis of the topic area or could be a small research project.

2 Admission

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supervision resources being
loading in a term when
the maximum allowed.

calculation.

_____ is provided to determine marks needed for entry into the thesis project.

3

Once enrolled in DATA5012, students are required to complete Form 2 in Moodle, which requires confirmation of sufficient progress on the project. Form 2 is required to be completed by Friday of Week 1 of that term. After submission, the Supervisor's advice is required to confirm the student will be ready to submit their thesis by week 10. Supervisors will receive an email from the School in week 3 to confirm Form 2 submission. A further email will be sent in week 8 to the Supervisor to confirm the student is on target to submit.

Theses submitted without the approval of the supervisor will not be assessed. Students who do not meet the project requirements will normally be awarded with the Graduate Diploma in Data Science. 6.4 (e)-10.2.2Es

Before the start of T1,
ideally during the

- An abstract, concisely describing the content, scope, and results of the project.
- A table of contents.
- The thesis body organised in several chapters (including an introduction and a conclusion).
- A reference list, including all the references cited in the thesis and arranged alphabetically by author.

Students will be required to separately submit a contribution statement, acknowledging the extent and nature of any assistance received in the pursuit of the project.

The [School website contains LaTeX template files](#) used for writing the thesis, including UNSW crest and UNSW thesis style files:

- unsw-sms-masters-thesis-template.tex
- unsw-crest.pdf
- unsw-crest.eps
- unswthesis.cls

NB: All these files need to be saved in the same folder as unsw-sms-masters-thesis-template.tex for correct compilation.

Students are required to submit two electronic (in pdf format) copies of their thesis through the Moodle course page

before exams), the student gives an oral presentation of 15 minutes to staff members of the School, interested visitors, and other students. A short session of questions & answers follows.

The presentation is worth 20% of the final mark. The presentation will be assessed on:

- x Structure (logically organised and presented, kept to time)
- x Delivery (engagement, clarity, enthusiasm)
- x Visual aids (quality of figures, legibility of text, visual impact)
- x Knowledge displayed (critical insight, aids understanding, response to questions).

8 Fraud and plagiarism

Plagiarism is the presentation of the thoughts or work of another as one's own. Examples include:

- direct duplication of the thoughts or work of another, including by copying material, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report, or other written document (whether published or unpublished), composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, Internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- paraphrasing another person's work with very minor changes keeping the meaning, form and/or progression of ideas of the original.
- piecing together sections of the work of others into a new whole.
- presenting an assessment item as independent work when it has been produced in whole or part in collusion with other people, for example, another student or a tutor.

For the purposes of this policy, submitting an assessment item that has already been submitted for academic credit elsewhere may be considered plagiarism. Knowingly permitting your work to be copied by another student may also be plagiarism. An assessment item produced in oral, not written, form, or involving live presentation, may similarly contain plagiarised material.

The University has policies on academic honesty and plagiarism which all students should familiarise themselves with, see: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>

The [Academic Skills](#) website is the main repository of resources for students regarding plagiarism and academic honesty. The Academic Skills Team also provides substantial educational written materials, workshops, and tutorials to aid students, for example, in correct referencing practices; paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing, and time management; appropriate use of, and attribution for, a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts. Individual assistance is available on request from the Academic Skills Team.

Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting, and th

9 Additional information

Please refer to the School of Mathematics and Statistics website for updated information:
<https://www.unsw.edu.au/science/our-schools/maths/student-life-resources/postgraduate-coursework/postgraduate-coursework-project>

Please contact: Dr. Libo Li
Director of Postgraduate Studies (Coursework)
Room: H13 Anita Lawrence -1035 | Phone: (02) 9385 7025
Email: pg.MathsStats@unsw.edu.au

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