

TM470

THE COMPUTING PROJECT

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THE INTENTION OF TM470

- TM470 is intended for you to demonstrate that you can undertake **ANY** project in a structured and controlled fashion
- This is done by evaluating your project **PROCESS** against a set of wide ranging **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**
- **NOT** by examining the deliverables of your particular project
 - **The journey is more important than the destination!**



THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- Can be a very fulfilling and interesting exercise
- TM470 is fairly easy to obtain a **PASS** grade
 - As long as you put in the work
 - At least some of it will demonstrate some of the learning objectives!
- TM470 is quite hard to obtain a **DISTINCTION** grade
 - The learning objectives cover a lot of separate topics
 - It is hard (but not impossible) to cover every topic well



TM470 PROJECT ISN'T AN END PRODUCT. IT IS A PROCESS.

- If you have spent 10 hours a week in purposeful and well focused study, kept a detailed diary of your progress and reflection, modified your study to take this into account, engaged with your tutor, and written up and explained the key points of your study at each stage for TMAs and the EMA, then you should end with a good grade.
- If you remain out of contact but present a working application or PhD research paper at the end, but with no discussion of how you arrived there, you will fail the module.
- We don't want you to follow a template. We want you to demonstrate that you can plan and follow your own path.
- It is possible to make a very good project, or a very bad project, from almost all the project ideas discussed in the initial TM470 forum.



BUILDING ON YOUR PREVIOUS MODULES

- You are expected to be able to apply the knowledge and skills that you have studied and developed at levels 1, 2 and 3.
- The TM470 study materials provide a framework of the essential requirements for doing your TM470 project. They do not include the ICT content that you need.
- You are now expected to show that you can research, evaluate and apply all the knowledge and skills you need for your chosen topic.



TM470 IS ABOUT WORKING INDEPENDENTLY

- Your project course is a demonstration that you are able to work independently to guide your own learning, literature research, planning and development.
- A lot of this depends on your ability to motivate yourself and to plan how to organise your time and to make the best use of your time.
- In the initial stages of your project you will need to research and study how to plan your project, and how to plan your time.



TM470 IS ABOUT LEARNING HOW TO SOLVE A PROBLEM IN ICT

- Your TM470 project is focused on solving a problem in ICT that you identify.
- You will analyse this problem and research and develop a solution.
- It should have a clear focus on ICT concepts and learning outcomes from your level 3 modules, supported by level 2 modules.
- It could be a core aspect of your degree pathway
 - Or it could reflect a personal interest



DIFFERENT TYPES OF PROJECT

- **Research projects** involve addressing a research question or analysing the possible solutions to a research problem, making detailed recommendations. This typically involves investigating the relevant academic area in depth.
- **Development projects** involve creating something: processes, algorithms, software, hardware, interface design, etc.
- **Evaluation projects** are sometimes named ‘compare and contrast’. You might compare processes, analyse an implementation, assess different user interactions, etc.



PROJECT CHOICE

- Address a **non-trivial question**, one that is reasonably difficult without an obvious answer - a clear, **concrete** problem/scenario that needs a solution is the best option, regardless of the type of project.
- But the project must also be **very focused**, and build on your previous **level 2 & 3** modules
- **Do not attempt to do too much**
- Stick to a **precise, concrete problem domain** and achieve significant depth of analysis and reflection in relation to it.
- Play on your existing **strengths** rather than learn an entirely new skill set.



TM470 TUTORS ARE MENTORS

- TM470 Tutors are mentors who can guide you through the project process.
- The content of the project is down to your research and your ability.
- It is up to you to explain your proposals and progress in a way that ensures that your tutor, and the examiners, and the external examiner are all fully informed.
- Keep in touch with your tutor at regular intervals throughout the project period.



STRUCTURE OF THE MODULE: TMAS & EMA

- TMA01 – Project Proposal and Initial Progress (5%)
 - Cut off: 3 March
- TMA02 – Review of Work in Progress (10%)
 - Cut off: 14 April
- TMA03 – Working Towards the Final Report (10%)
 - Cut off: 7 July
- EMA – Final evaluation, reflections, integration of TMAs (75%)
 - Cut off: 14 September



TM470 INTRO PART 2: GETTING STARTED

- Read all the content of the module website
 - Not just the introduction or the first assignment.
- You need to read it all so that you know what you will be submitting as your completed project, and everything that will contribute to that.
- This is the first test of your ability to do the project course!
- Start a journal / project log / diary in which you record all thoughts, activities, references, use of your time etc related to your project.



PLANNING IS THE KEY

- You will have to plan your study for the full course very carefully from the start, and the only way of doing that is to know all the details of what the project module requires.
- What are the time commitments that you have for the year ahead? Work, family, holiday, exercise, diy, other study, what else?? How do you plan to organise your time for developing your TM470 project for the year ahead?
- Establish a pattern of working now to make sure you get enough done.



TMA 01 : PROJECT PROPOSAL AND INITIAL PROGRESS

- We suggest you organise your TMA under three main headings:
 - Preparation and planning
 - Project work
 - Review and reflection
- You need to include all the elements in Tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 and that these are easily identifiable and assessable
- Not a rigid template for your TMA 01, adjust to suit
- 3000 words plus perhaps one or two short appendices



TMA 01 : MARKING SCHEME (PART)

Learning outcome	Grade (indicative %)				
	1 (85%+) Distinction	2 (70–84%)	3 (55–69%)	4 (40–54%)	5 (0–39%) Fail
LO2. Identify and refine the goals and content of your project.	Clear title and description of the project. The nature of the problem is well defined. The boundaries of the project and the solution that will be delivered are clear. The proposal is realistic and achievable.	As for Grade 1 but the description is less clear and boundaries of the project and the solution to be delivered may be less well defined.	As for Grade 2 but the description tends towards the general and the scope of the problem may be unrealistically large or too narrow, to the extent that the delivered solution is unlikely to adequately address the problem.	The scope of the problem is unclear and it is not evident that the proposed work will address the problem adequately.	The project is very unclear and little progress has been made beyond identifying the topic area. A score of 0% indicates there has been no engagement or progress at all, beyond choosing a topic.



USEFUL TIPS

- Choose a project that allows you to show off your skills (and have fun)
- Think about the type of project it is
- Choose (and justify) appropriate lifecycle module (always ask *why*)
- Spend time creating a project plan (use this in each TMA)
- Take time to identify risks: what are they? How can you mitigate them?
- Always consider ethical issues within the project
- Start your reading and researching (use the OU Library)
- Create a log, and send me updates every week (this is evidence)
- Take time to look at marking grids: you can almost mark yourself!



THANK YOU FOR WATCHING!

PLEASE KEEP IN TOUCH

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