



Informatics Project Proposal 2024/25

The Prequel... Self proposed projects

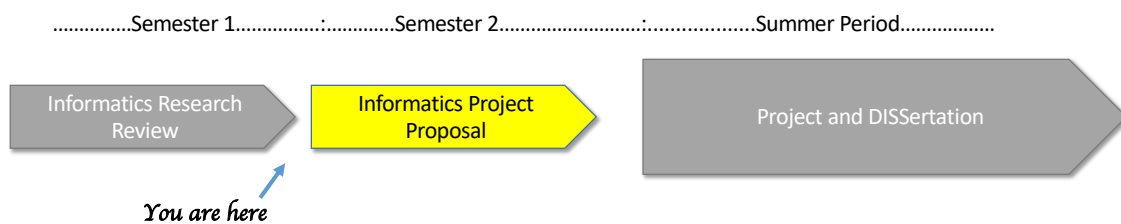


Hi there, this is just a short prequel lecture for this years IPP course with some preparation work you can do before the start of semester 2. We will do a fuller introduction to the IPP course after the break.

This is really important if you are thinking about proposing your own project for next summer or if you have a sponsor or employer who wants you to do a specific project. For everyone else this might still be interesting and it wont take long but you can happily park it until next semester.



Research component of the taught M.Sc. Programmes.



Semester 1: IRR – learn and refine critical reading and writing skills

Semester 2: Identify your project, develop it into a plan that’s ready to go.

Summer: Research project leading to final M.Sc. Dissertation

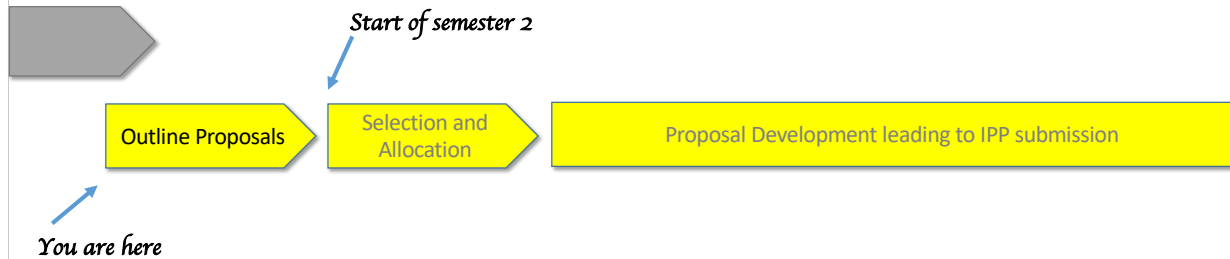
Just to recap and give you the context. The research components of all our taught MSc programmes start with a course in research literature review (IRR) and critical evaluation which you should now have completed even if you are still finishing off your actual review. IRR is not linked to your project. It can be if you want but it does not need to be. Most of you will choose a project that is different to your IRR although often in a related field.

The next stage is the Informatics Project Proposal course which runs in semester 2 and this is different. This is aimed at being the prep work for the summer project you will actually do.

There are several steps.



IPP Stages



Outline Proposal stage starts now and runs to early Semester 2

Followed by an allocation phase (cover next semester)

Then onto IPP proper (next semester)

We are currently starting the outline proposal stage. This is mostly for staff where they will assemble a collection of several hundred projects that you can browse and shop around in. But a few of you will want to propose your own projects. SO what does that mean and how do you know.



Outline Proposal Period open, hard deadline

- Staff Proposed and Supervised (Majority of projects)
- External Proposed (via staff) (Common)
- **Industry Proposed (via student) (Rare)**
- **Self Proposed (Sometimes)**



MSc projects fall into four main types. The majority of you will apply for, and do a staff or external proposed and supervised MSc project. Some of you will want to propose your own, or you might want or even need to do a project with a sponsor company or contact you have. For these last two projects types you need to act right now. In fact if you are only just watching this in week one then you are late and only have a couple of days to sort out quite a lot.



Who needs to do an outline proposal ?

I have a specific project idea in mind that I would really like to do

I have a specific supervisor or area I would like to work in

An employer has offered me a summer project that I want to do

My sponsor requires that I do a specific project with them

I want to do an industry related project but not sure where

I'm really not sure yet what I want to do my project in, show me some ideas.

OK in this case you need to act now, this is what we call classically call a self proposed project, its your idea but we need to develop it and make sure it is valid and you have a supervisor. Will come back to this in a minute.



Who needs to do an outline proposal?

I have a specific project idea in mind that I would really like to do **YES!**

I have a specific supervisor or area I would like to work in

An employer has offered me a summer project that I want to do

My sponsor requires that I do a specific project with them

I want to do an industry related project but not sure where

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So you have a rough idea of area and/or supervisor but no project yet. In this case the answer is no. All staff who are teaching next summer have to propose projects so those will be advertised after this current stage and you can talk to them at that point.



Who needs to do an outline proposal?

I have a specific project idea in mind that I would really like to do **YES!**

~~I have a specific supervisor or area I would like to work in~~ **NO, wait for selection period**

An employer has offered me a summer project that I want to do

My sponsor requires that I do a specific project with them

I want to do an industry related project but not sure where

I'm really not sure yet what I want to do my project in, show me some ideas.

What if an employer wants you to do a project with them. This is rare but it happens. If it affects you, treat it like a self proposed project. We need to check the project is valid and you still need an informatics supervisor.



Who needs to do an outline proposal?

- I have a specific project idea in mind that I would really like to do **YES!**
- ~~I have a specific supervisor or area I would like to work in~~ **NO, wait for selection period**
- An employer has offered me a summer project that I want to do **YES!**
- My sponsor requires that I do a specific project with them
- I want to do an industry related project but not sure where
- I'm really not sure yet what I want to do my project in, show me some ideas.

Again this one is rare and its exactly the same as the last case. You need an outline proposal to check its valid and you need an informatics supervisor.



Who needs to do an outline proposal?

- I have a specific project idea in mind that I would really like to do **YES!**
- ~~I have a specific supervisor or area I would like to work in~~ **NO, wait for selection period**
- An employer has offered me a summer project that I want to do **YES!**
- My sponsor requires that I do a specific project with them **YES!**
- I want to do an industry related project but not sure where
- I'm really not sure yet what I want to do my project in, show me some ideas.

In this case no, wait for now. There will be some industry related projects in the full list next semester. The self proposed route only kicks in if **you** have established **your own** link to an external company or research group.



Who needs to do an outline proposal?

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| I have a specific project idea in mind that I would really like to do | YES! |
| I have a specific supervisor or area I would like to work in | NO, wait for selection period |
| An employer has offered me a summer project that I want to do | YES! |
| My sponsor requires that I do a specific project with them | YES! |
| I want to do an industry related project but not sure where | NO, wait for selection period |
| I'm really not sure yet what I want to do my project in, show me some ideas. | |

This will cover the majority of the class. Don't worry if you do not have a clear project right now, most students do not and find one in the next phase. So most of you can stop right here and park this.



Who needs to do an outline proposal?

I have a specific project idea in mind that I would really like to do	YES!
I have a specific supervisor or area I would like to work in	NO, wait for selection period
An employer has offered me a summer project that I want to do	YES!
My sponsor requires that I do a specific project with them	YES!
I want to do an industry related project but not sure where	NO, wait for selection period
I'm really not sure yet what I want to do my project in, show me some ideas.	NO, wait for selection period

OK so if you have a YES indicating there is a specific project you want or need to do then you need to start thinking about this now.



What do you need to do first? ... get a supervisor...

1. Introduce yourself

1. Which programme are you on
2. What is your background (briefly initially, you might want to send a CV later)

2. High level outline of the project aims

- Just enough detail so a potential supervisor can understand what you want to do
- Include your motivation – why do you want to do this
- Details can follow, that's what IPP is for

3. Why that Supervisor?

- Why do you think that supervisor is appropriate
- What do you need from them? (if anything)
- If your project involves an external company or organization explain that relationship

4. *If they say no, politely ask if they have any recommendations.*

OK so what is first. You need to find a supervisor willing to take your project idea on. It is the responsibility of the supervisor to check that the academic content in your project will get you a pass assuming you do the work well.

No members of staff have an obligation to take on a self proposed project so you might need to hunt around a bit.

I suggest you start by emailing them with the information on this slide.

There are lots of reasons staff will not be in a position to take on a project. Usually it's the wrong are or they have priority projects of their own. They may be able to offer advice on who might be worth talking to.

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informatics

dpmt.inf.ed.ac.uk **VPN**

dpmt.inf.ed.ac.uk


informatics Apple News Research google personal Brainwave ActualAnalytics Archery


Logged in as Douglas Armstrong


THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
informatics

Degree Project Management Tool

Select the project system that you wish to view


Design Informatics


MSc Projects


UG4/MInf Projects

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You also need to submit an outline project, you can do the two activities in parallel but it usually makes more sense to find your supervisor first. Outline proposals are done on the DPMT system .This is exactly the same system that the staff are using to propose general projects. You can only access the system on campus or through UofE VPN, go to this page indicated, Select an MSc Project then you;ll see a propose button.



Propose a Project

[Import Previous Project](#) [Import Legacy Project](#)

Proposer: Christopher Lucas (clucas2@inf.ed.ac.uk)

Fields marked with an * are required.

Project Title

Title *

Enter a concise, but informative title for the project.

Principal Goal

Principal Goal *

Description *

H1 H2 H3 P pre **B** *I* U ~~S~~

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`</>`

Empty text area for project description.

You will add a tentative title, main goal of the project and then some html description of the background, aims and objectives of the project. Usually around a page. Again you get to revise and refine this during IPP, this is a placeholder.



References

Reference Text or DOI + Add Add by DOI

🔗 Links in references will be automatically made clickable when the project is viewed.

Completion Criteria *

- This is an **industry supported** project.
- This project aligns with the **AI for Social Good** theme.

You then add any key literature references and a short completion criteria – this is essentially a brief summary of how anyone external would be able to assess whether your project is a success.

Note this does not mean the project can only be completed if it has a successful result; it means you have the result, even if it is not the result you were expecting. It's the end goal.

If appropriate click industry supported / social good but these are just flags. If in doubt just leave them.

Finally tell your supervisor the project outline exists, give them a link and ask them to comments on and sign up for it.



(Outline) Project Proposal Period Open

If you want to propose your own project OR

If you want to work on a specific project with an external sponsor

ACT NOW,

you need to find a supervisor and

you need get an outline proposal submitted.

In summary. Project proposals are now OPEN for self proposed projects. Most of you will not propose your own projects but those of you who want to will need to act now. The dates on this slide are for the 2024/25 academic year and may change if you are viewing this video or slides at another time.