

Some details of how projects are to be assessed have been changed for this year.

The project will be assessed on the basis of your input to and commitment to the work, the progress you have made, and the way in which you present and explain your work, both in written and oral form. There are no specific marks awarded for the results you obtain.

Half of the marks for your project will be awarded by your supervisor (in consultation with your day-to-day supervisor, if there is one): these marks are for your commitment, competence, intellectual contribution, and your oral presentation. They are not related to the written dissertation.

The other half of the marks are assigned by one of the Part III Examiners together with another member of staff who is familiar with your area of work. This part of the assessment focuses on the written project and your discussion of it in a short oral examination.

Interviews

As part of the assessment process you will be called for an interview (of about 20 minutes duration) in which you can expect to be asked questions about your project, the conclusions you have drawn and the general area. The interview will be conducted by the two people who are assessing your written project.

These interviews will be held in the week beginning Monday 14th May.

Details of the marking procedure

The marks are divided up into several categories. In each category, some questions are given which are intended to focus the assessors on relevant issues; these questions are simply indicative and are neither exclusive nor exhaustive. The Examiners may vary the marks awarded in each category: the marks given below indicative.

Marks awarded by the project supervisor in consultation with the day-to-day supervisor (if relevant)

Commitment (17 marks)

- Did the student devote an appropriate amount of time to the project?
- Were they a willing worker or did they need to be 'chased' by their day-to-day supervisor?
- Did they take a wider interest in the work of the group and participate in relevant activities?
- Did they take the work seriously?
- Did they engage with/seek out relevant literature?

Competence (17 marks)

- Did the student have the expected skills on arrival?
- How quickly did they learn new skills and techniques?
- Were they a safe and reliable worker, or did they need close supervision?
- Were they able to interpret their results?
- Were they appropriately critical of their results?
- Were they able to work out the next steps?

Intellectual contribution (10 marks)

- Did the student simply follow the route set out for them or were they able to suggest or develop alternatives?
- When there were difficulties, were they able to develop their own solutions?

Were they able to work out possible ways forward to take the project further?

Oral presentation (6 marks)

Was the presentation well thought out and prepared?

Did the student respond well to questions?

Marks awarded by the two assessors (one of the Examiners and another member of staff)

The presentation and content of the dissertation (30 marks)

Does the introduction set out the aims of the project?

Is the prior art made clear, with appropriate references?

Is it clear how the present work fits into the bigger scheme?

Is the material organized in an appropriate order that makes the development of the ideas and experiments easy to follow?

Does the writing convey a sense that the student understands the work? Are appropriate conclusions drawn?

Are there appropriate suggestions for future work?

How is the overall 'look' of the dissertation? Has it been well prepared? Are the diagrams and figures of an appropriate standard and used to good effect?

Is the written English clear, grammatical and of a good standard?

Is the description of the experimental work appropriate within the conventions of this kind of work?

Interview (20 marks)

Did the candidate appear to know about their own work and its context?

Were they able to answer questions in a convincing way?

Were they able to bring in related material?