

MSc Research Methods – Presentation

Student Yiwen Zhou

Topic Handwritten Signature Verification

Tutor Dr Nik Whitehead

Final mark

56%

Project Presentation	Marks Available	Marks Awarded
<i>Background – what is the project and why does the student want to do it?</i> Good background and justification for the project.	10	7
<i>Literature review – is the project sufficiently rooted in a suitable research field?</i> Remember to use the IEEE (Vancouver) referencing system. Good description of the process of signature recognition, but you need to include in the proposal document information on the development of signature recognition systems over time. That way you will get ideas of the best way to approach it and identify the things that may cause problems.	20	12
<i>Aims and Objectives – are these SMART?</i> You have an aim, which is good, but you also need to have a set of objectives. These are the tasks that you will undertake to meet your aim. Your project plan shows these, but they need to be stated in the aim and objectives section as well.	20	10
<i>Methodology and research process – is this a practical process and does the student understand how to carry out the research?</i> The process for carrying out the research is well described in a good level of detail but you need to say what the basic methodology is (probably positivist, deductive, and using a literature review, case study and software development). Similarly you need to state what your software development methodology is (I'd recommend feature-driven development).	20	10
<i>Resources and planning – are these appropriate to the project?</i> Where does the data come from? Is there a data set already available or are you going to create the dataset yourself? Otherwise the resources and the plan are okay. Reliability: Would the research get the same results if someone else carried out the experiments? Yes, so the research has a high reliability. Validity: Are you measuring the right things? Yes, because you're using real world signatures, so the research has a high validity. Generalisability: Can you apply algorithms you develop based on signatures in Chinese to signatures in another script? Yes, because they are based upon the feature extraction of an image and pressure extraction from a pressure profile, so the research has a high generalisability. Assuming that the dataset is available, this is a viable MSc project.	20	11
<i>Presentation</i>	10	6

Slides are informative, but it is better not to read the text on the slides. Use bullet points on the slides and save the large sections of text for the narration. The spoken presentation was good.

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