



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Designing Your MSc Project: From Idea to Structured Plan

Trawsnewid Addysg; Trawsnewid Bywydau
Transforming Education; Transforming Lives

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The Programme Manager

- Leads the MSc Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics programme, ensuring strategic alignment and high quality delivery;
- Applies expertise in AI and cybersecurity to advance research informed teaching and innovation;
- Enhances student outcomes through industry informed practice and academic leadership;
- Promotes excellence in hands on learning, ethical practice and professional development.



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Workshop 1 Roadmap

- Purpose and learning objectives
- Project aims, learning outcomes and assessment structure
- Project selection and supervisor relationship
- Research methodology and design guidance
- Final report structure and marking criteria
- Policies on AI, plagiarism and submission
- Key tips and deadlines

Planning & Structuring Your MSc Project

- Understanding expectations
- Designing a strong research plan
- Structuring your final report effectively

Purpose & Learning Objectives

- Understand the aims of the MSc Project module
- Understand the assessment structure (80% report, 20% viva)
- Identify project types and required deliverables
- Plan your project timeline strategically

Module Overview

- 60-credit Level 7 major project
- Independent research and implementation
- Requires a substantial practical element
- Final report: approximately 15,000 words

Project Selection Criteria

- Aligned with programme themes
- Includes implementation, experimentation, or deployment
- Achievable within timeframe
- Approved by supervisor

Supervisor & Student Responsibilities

- Supervisor provides guidance, not solutions
- Regular meetings are essential
- Student responsible for progress and quality
- Maintain a project logbook

Research Methodology Essentials

- Define research philosophy and approach
- Select appropriate research strategy
- Plan data collection and analysis methods
- Ensure validity and reliability

Final Report Structure Overview

- Introduction (Aim & Objectives)
- Literature Review
- Methodology
- Design & Implementation
- Evaluation & Conclusions
- Reflection & References

Assessment Criteria – Report (80%)

- Critical engagement with literature
- Appropriate methodology
- Strong implementation
- Clear evaluation and analysis
- Professional presentation and reflection

Academic Integrity & AI Use

- All sources must be properly referenced
- Plagiarism results in penalties
- AI may support workflow but cannot replace your work
- You must be able to defend all submitted content

Planning Strategy & Time Management

- Start writing early
- Plan backwards from submission deadline
- Allow time for testing and revision
- Proofread carefully

Workshop 1 – Key Takeaways

- Design for results, not just an artefact
- Follow a clear academic structure
- Link every chapter to your aims
- Manage your time strategically



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Any Questions?

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