



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

Understanding Coursework Assessments in the MSc Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics Programme

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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Welcome and Session Overview

- Welcome to your master's degree in computing
- How coursework assessments work in the UK
- Practical tips to help you succeed

Who This Session Is For

- New international master's students
- Students unfamiliar with UK assessment systems
- Anyone who wants to better understand coursework expectations
- Students aiming to develop confidence in academic study

What You Will Gain From This Session

- A clear understanding of coursework assessments
- Awareness of common coursework formats in computing
- Practical steps for planning and completing assignments
- Knowledge of where to find help and support

What Are Coursework Assessments?

- Assessed work during the semester
- Not an exam
- Usually submitted online
- Common at postgraduate level

Coursework at Master's Level

- Independent learning
- Deeper analysis
- Problem-solving focus
- Real-world relevance

Common Coursework Types in Computing

- Technical reports
- Case studies
- Research essays
- Group projects
- Labs or portfolios

Example Coursework Task

- Forensic Data Analysis
- Data Governance Policy Analysis
- Write a technical report and Research-Informed Essay
- Cloud Data Governance Scenario

Why Coursework Matters

- Major part of module mark
- Industry and research skills
- Academic and technical communication
- Dissertation preparation

How Coursework Is Marked

- Assessment criteria
- Learning outcomes
- Written feedback
- UK marking scale

Understanding Assessment Criteria

- Found in assignment brief
- Explains expectations
- Guides time and effort

Typical Assessment Criteria

- Knowledge and understanding
- Critical analysis
- Application to problems
- Writing and presentation
- Referencing

Step 1: Read the Brief

- Read carefully
- Highlight key tasks
- Check format and deadline

Step 2: Break the Task Down

- Identify deliverables
- Split into steps
- Plan workload

Step 3: Time Management

- Plan backwards
- Allow time for review
- Avoid last-minute work

Step 4: Research Skills

- Use academic sources
- Library databases
- Conference papers
- Quality over quantity

Academic Writing for Computing

- Clear structure
- Explain decisions
- Use evidence
- Simple formal language

Referencing: Why It Matters

- Credit original ideas
- Academic integrity
- UK academic requirement

Avoiding Plagiarism

- No copying without credit
- Paraphrase properly
- Do not share assignments
- Reference all sources

Reviewing Before Submission

- Check criteria
- Test code
- Proofread
- Confirm references

Submitting Coursework

- Online submission system
- Correct file format
- Submit early
- Keep confirmation

Late Submission and Extensions

- Penalties apply
- Extensions possible
- Communicate early with your module leader
- Communicate early with your programme manager

Using Feedback

- Understand your mark
- Identify improvements
- Apply to future work

Where to Get Support

- Lecturers and tutors
- Study skills workshops
- Library support
- Peer groups

Key Takeaways

- Coursework is central
- Plan carefully
- Use support
- You can succeed



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Any Questions?

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