# Dissertation Project

Recommended modules to have undertaken: IMAT2703 Introduction to Research & Ethics; IMAT1204 Business Decision Making (introductory statistics)

In a dissertation project, a research question drives the project in the form of an extended literature analysis. You will be expected to:

1. identify the research topic and question(s)
2. research into and read the literature on the topics surrounding the question
3. determine the best methodology to use to organise, analyse and evaluate literature findings
4. gather, analyse and interpret the various studies found in the literature
5. synthesise your analysis and interpretations into issues or major factors relevant to your research question
6. come up with some conclusions, recommendations, implications, ideas for further exploration, and an understanding of the limitations of your research

Dissertation projects are not an easy option: they require a lot of academic style writing and critical analysis. If you would like to do a dissertation project, it is best to choose a topic area that you are particularly interested in. Proposals are likely to be in topic areas (e.g. professionalism in practice) and may be vague – you may be required to come up with your own specific research questions, but you may also propose your own topic area and research question.

First Deliverable: Project Contract & Ethical Review Form

Second Deliverable: Initial Literature Review; Methodology and Analysis Plan

Final Deliverable: Revised Literature Review; Methodology Review; Literature Analysis; Interpretation and Synthesis; Implications and Conclusions; Limitations and Further Work; Reflection

A viva is required at the end of the project.

**Suggested reading**

Berndtsson, M, Hansson J, Olsson B & Lundell B (2008) *Thesis Projects, a guide for students in computer science and information systems*. Springer

Jesson J, Matheson L & Lacey F (2011) *Doing your Literature Review: traditional and systematic techniques*. Sage

Oates B (2006) *Researching Information Systems and Computing*. Sage

Note this text briefly describes research methods; it will not be sufficient on its own.

**Dissertation project proposals / suggested topics**

**Professionalism in practice**

Review the importance of professional bodies to industrial practice with a view to recommending ways for professional bodies and organisations to engage effectively with students and recent graduates.

Type: Dissertation

Proposer: [mclarkson@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:mclarkson@dmu.ac.uk)

**Technology as a change agent**

Review an organisation’s practices and procedures with a view to recommending significant technical, social and organisational change, drawing on both academic and management literature. Typically, such a review would be triggered by an organisation’s need to overhaul some part of its technology-based system portfolio.

Type: Dissertation

Proposer: [mclarkson@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:mclarkson@dmu.ac.uk)

**Enterprise-wide technological solutions**

Review the case for enterprise-wide application systems, identifying implementation potential and issues to be considered. This refers to a particular type of large integrated technology-based solution found in industry.

Type: Dissertation

Proposer: [mclarkson@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:mclarkson@dmu.ac.uk)

**Ambient intelligence overview**

Conduct a landscape study into the state of the art in ambient intelligence applications.

Type: Dissertation

Proposer: [cflick@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:cflick@dmu.ac.uk)

**Privacy policies compared**

Carry out a comparative study of privacy policies in government websites.

Type: Dissertation

Proposer: [mclarkson@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:mclarkson@dmu.ac.uk)

**Evolution of ICT as a teaching aid**

Conduct a meta-study of other people’s research into the application of ICT in the classroom, looking for how ICT use has evolved over the last 20 years.

Type: Dissertation

Proposer: [mclarkson@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:mclarkson@dmu.ac.uk)

**Emerging technology from an ethical standpoint**

Perform an ethical theory analysis on an emerging technology.

Type: Dissertation

Proposer: [cflick@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:cflick@dmu.ac.uk)