University of Lancashire **School of Engineering and Computing**	**Coursework Assessment Brief**	2025-2026
	Module Title: Honours Degree Project	
	Module Code: CO3008	Level 6
	Honours Degree Project	This assessment is worth 100% of the overall module mark

THE BRIEF / INSTRUCTIONS

In this assessment you are to complete a substantial project showcasing the practical skills you have developed during your time as a student on your honours degree course. You will work individually to research and undertake practical work relevant to your course to help solve a clearly defined problem chosen by you. The results of your practical work normally result in the production of some kind of computational artefact.

In addition to producing your artefact, you will document your planning, research, design, implementation and evaluation in a substantial report. You will complete the project under the guidance of a supervisor who will meet with you throughout the duration of the project and guide you in the process of managing and completing a project of this size.

KEY DELIVERABLES

This is likely to be the largest piece of assessed work on your course, so to support you the report has been split into component parts that are to be delivered as formal submissions throughout the academic year. The final report and artefact will be an aggregate of the following 5 deliverables.

Deliverable 1: Proposal

You should produce a proposal document of approximately 1000 words that clearly defines the following:

- Problem Statement - A brief outline of the problem your project aims to address.
- Ethical Analysis – a discussion of the potential ethical issues surrounding the problem domain and any considerations you will need to make to ensure your project is completed in line with the ethical standards expected of a computing professional, including potential issues relating to equality, diversity and inclusion.
- Risk Assessment – An investigation into the potential risks of the project itself, i.e. risks that could lead to project failure, contingencies and how risks can be mitigated
- Health & Safety Assessment – An investigation into the potential health and safety risks to yourself, the public and users of your artefact.
- Potential for Commercial Development – A short outline of any envisioned potential for commercialisation/commercial development of your solution.
- Time & Resources Plan – How you present your plan for managing your time and project resources is up to you. Your plan should detail how you intend to spend the time and resources on the project to work towards solving the problem outlined in your problem statement.

With the submission of your proposal you also will be reuired to complete a project ethics form online. The link for the form is located with the submission link for this assessment on Blackboard. Your supervisor must review this and approve this. Failure to complete the form and receive ethical approval for your project from your supervisor may result in a fail grade for the module.

Deliverable 2: Introduction, State of the Art, Methodology

This deliverable will form the first three sections of your project report, and should consist of approximately 4000 words. It should contain the following:

- Introduction – This should expand (or clarify) the problem space your project is situated in. In this section you should clearly identify **what** the problem is and should be broken down into component parts where necessary. You should discuss any appropriate standards and legal implications at this point. You should also indicate **why** the problem is significant and worthy of attention. You should discuss the impact of both solving and not solving your stated problem at this point. Finally you should discuss **how** you are going to work towards solving the problem. You should state a single high level aim within the context of the problem defined and list 6 to 8 objectives that are progressive and measurable that work towards meeting that aim.
- State of the Art - This should be a review of the current body of knowledge in your chosen problem area and should clearly outline the boundary between what is known in your chosen area of work and what is not known. This should be in the form of an academic literature review. You should also note any different research methodologies that have been applied within the existing body of knowledge in your chosen problem area and note any implications for your own work.
- Methodology – This should outline a high level plan for how you are going to address the problem. It may be informed by the methodologies identified in the 'State of the Art' section and should outline how your methodology is going help achieve all the objectives outlined in pursuit of the main aim presented in your introduction. You should discuss how you will progress through the objectives and how you will know when they have been completed. If your practical work involves development, this section should also briefly discuss the development methodology that is to be used. You should also outline your intended process for evaluation at this point (to check whether or not you have addressed the projects overall aim). Finally you should provide an expanded indication on how you plan to use your remaining time/resources on the project.

Deliverable 3: Design and Implementation (to include project artefact)
This deliverable will form the fourth and fifth sections of your report and will consist of approximately 3000 words. It will consist of the following:

- Design – This section will present an analysis of the projects requirements and provide a specification for a solution that attempts to meet those requirements. The section should provide a design outline that is appropriate for your project (E.g. system architecture, network architecture, UML diagrams etc.).
- Implementation – This section should provide a critical review of the key problems encountered during your implementation and how they were overcome. The section should showcase the level of technical challenge that your project has achieved, but should NOT simply describe step by step exactly what has been done. Pseudo code can be used to explain important parts of your project, but actual code samples should be included in an appendix away from your main report. You should also provide a review and reflection of the testing processes undertaken during the development of your project and make use of appendices for presenting test data where necessary.

Deliverable 4: Evaluation, Discussion and Conclusions
This deliverable forms the final sections of your project report and is a reflective account of how your project achieved what it set out to do and should be approximately 2500 words. It should consist of the following:

- Evaluation Process – This section should provide a critical reflection of the evaluation process itself. You should present your approach to evaluation and relect on it. It should revisit the original aims and evaluate the solution developed against the problem domain.
- Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion – Write a short reflection on whether your project takes account of principles related to diversity, equality, and inclusion. If not, suggest ways in which these considerations could make your project stronger or more impactful with further work.
- Discussion – This should be a critical reflection of the evaluation outputs (findings) against the problem domain identified. You should state at this point whether or not the solution (artefact) provided solves the problem you set out to solve. You should reflect on the

commercial viability/applicability of your work and what further work may be needed in order to realise this. In this section you should also critically reflect on how the project was managed and any feedback you have received from your markers from past components and discuss how this feedback could be addressed.
- Conclusion – This short final section (approximately half a page) should summarise the overall outcome of the project and summarise any scope for further work not covered in the discussion section.

Deliverable 5: Viva Exam (Poster Presentation)
You will be asked to present your work at a poster presentation event at the end of semester 2. This is an opportunity to showcase your work to a wider audience and forms a compulsory part of your project assessment.

You should produce a poster of A1 size. The poster should display information summarising the project's problem domain, aims, artefact, achievements and conclusions. Use small amounts of text, pictures and diagrams to communicate the essence of your project concisely and effectively. The purpose of a poster is to outline your project in a way that is easily understood and stimulates interest and discussion.

*Note: You will **not** be able to pass the project module if you fail to attend and carry out a poster presentation.*

FORMATIVE DELIVERABLES
To give you the best possible opportunity to get feedback on your practical work, there are two formal formative milestones for receiving feedback on your project artefact.

Artefact Milestone 1: Minimum Viable Product (Demo to Supervisor)
This is a formal demonstration to your supervisor early in semester 2. You should be aiming to showcase a 'minimum viable product' at this point that goes some way to achieving your original objectives.The aim at this point is to work your artefact up to a passable standard, and get feedback from your supervisor about what can be done to increase the quality of your solution and (if required) get it up to a passable standard

Artefact Milestone 2: Show and Tell (Demo to Supervisor)
This is another formal demonstration that aims to focus on showcasing a near final product. It is a final opportunity to receive formative feedback on the project artefact hand how effectively it meets the original aims of the project. Your supervisor will be able to raise any significant concerns at this point allowing you time to make any necessary adjustments before the final artefact submission.

LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSED

1.	Select and apply appropriate techniques to analyse and tackle a complex problem.
2.	Identify ethical and EDI issues and propose appropriate solutions.
3.	Consider the commercial development of the project idea and identify what further work / skills would be needed in order to realise this.
4.	Produce a substantial, complex piece of work within a specified timescale based on an agreed specification.
5.	Apply project management techniques.
6.	Reflect on development and critically evaluate their performance and the tools and techniques used.
7.	Investigate relevant literature and write a report that analyses the material found.
8.	Communicate complex information effectively.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA / REQUIREMENTS

Your work will be assessed against 5 core criteria that are used to assess students on undergraduate computing degrees in the UK. Knowledge and Understanding, Cognitive/Intellectual Skills, Practical Skills, Research, Enquiry and Problem Solving, and Transferrable/Professional Skills. Scholarly Practices sich as effective use of relevant literature, academic writing and referencing and citation will also be taken into account.

A marking matrix will be used in the marking of each deliverable submitted that maps to some or all of the above mentioned criteria. You can find the marking spreadsheet (which contains the matrices for each deliverable) in the 'Assessment' folder on Blackboard.

Your feedback for each deliverable will consist of a highlighted marking martrix indicating appropriate general points of feedback on the work. In addition, for each component you will also receive brief overall summary of your markers overall impression of the submitted work. You will also receive up to three points of feedback indicating areas of improvement to work on for the next deliverable submission.

ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

To pass this module, you need to achieve a mark of 40% or above, **and** attend the viva exam (poster) presentation element of this assessment.

PREPARATION FOR THE ASSESSMENT

Before completing each component you should discuss the component deliverables with your supervisor.

RELEASE DATES AND KEY HAND IN DEADLINES

Assessment release date: Friday 3/10/2025

Assessment deadlines dates and times:

Component	Deadline	Weighting	Words
D1 Proposal	14:00 Fri 24th Oct 2025	10%	1000
D2 Introduction, State of the Art, Methodology	14:00 Fri 28th Nov 2025	15%	4000
Minimum Viable Product	w/b 19th Jan 2026	Formative	Demo
Show and Tell	w/b 23rd Feb 2026	Formative	Demo
D3 Design & Implementation (including artefact)	14:00 Fri 13th Mar 2026	45%	3000
D4 Evaluation and Conclusions	14:00 Fri 27th Mar 2026	20%	2500
D5 Poster / Viva	w/b 13th April 2026	10%	A1 Poster
Poster / Viva Attendance	w/b 13th April 2026	Pass/Fail	-

Attendance at the viva is a 'Must Pass' requirement. You must attend your poster presentation and demonstrate your project to be eligible to pass the module.

Please note that these are the final dates you can submit – not the time to submit!
Your feedback / feed forward and mark for this assessment will be provided within 15 working days of each component submission

SUBMISSION DETAILS

All Deliverables should be submitted via the appropriate links on the CO3008 Blackboard space located in the 'Assessment' folder.

Written deliverables should be submitted in Microsoft Word .docx format.

Consult your supervisor on the most appropriate form of submission for your project artefact. If possible we recommend to compress into a single .zip format. Save your work using the following naming convention: Artefact-SurnameFirstname.xxx

HELP AND SUPPORT

- Academic Support for this module will be provided by your project supervisor. If you are unsure who your supervisor is, or they cannot be contacted, please contact the module leader Brendan Cassidy (bcassidy1@uclan.ac.uk)
- You will find information links to all our Library resources in the Library area of the Student Hub. For support with using these resources, please contact your subject librarian at SubjectLibrarians@uclan.ac.uk.
- You can get support with your academic skills (academic writing, critical thinking and referencing) through WISER. For details of the WISER support services go to the Study Skills section of the Student Hub.
- If you have not yet made the university aware of any disability, specific learning difficulty, long-term health or mental health condition, please complete a Disclosure Form. The Inclusive Support team will then contact to discuss reasonable adjustments and support relating to any disability. For more information, visit the Inclusive Support page of the Student Hub.
- To access mental health and wellbeing support, please complete our online referral form. Alternatively, you can email wellbeing@uclan.ac.uk, call 01772 893020, attend a drop-in, or visit our UCLan Wellbeing Service pages for more information.
- If you have any other query or require further support you can contact Student Support via studentsupport@uclan.ac.uk. Speak with us for advice on accessing all the University services as well as the Library services. Whatever your query, our expert staff will be able to help and support you. For more information please visit the Student Hub.
- If you have any valid mitigating circumstances that mean you cannot meet an assessment submission deadline and you wish to request an extension, you will need to apply online prior to the deadline.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this assessment brief is correct at time of publication. In the unlikely event that any changes are deemed necessary, they will be communicated clearly via e-mail and a new version of this assessment brief will be circulated.	Version: 1