COURSE DETAILS
Course Code: F21RP
Full Course Title: Research Methods and Project Planning
SCQF Level: 11
SCAF Credits: 15
Available as Elective: No

DELIVERY LEVEL
Undergraduate: Yes  Postgraduate Taught: Yes  Postgraduate Research: No

Additional Information:

COURSE AIMS
To enable students to develop skills in critical thinking, research planning, academic writing and experimental design appropriate for a post-graduate programme.

To enable students to gain skills in project planning

To give students an awareness of legal, social, ethical and professional issues relevant for IT practitioners.

To enhance students' employability by development of job seeking and career planning skills.

LEARNING OUTCOMES – SUBJECT MASTERY

- Ability to write literature review which critically evaluates research and current technical developments against a stated aim.
- Ability to search for and evaluate the value of written and online material.
- A critical understanding of the role of human factors in software development, and of a range of techniques for designing and evaluating with users in mind.
- A detailed understanding of general issues in experimental design, and how to verify a research hypothesis.
- An ability to apply general methodologies for project planning, and more specific methodologies related to IT projects.
- Awareness of what employers are looking for in prospective employees.
- Awareness of professional codes of conduct, safety, quality and security standards, UK computing law and ethical aspects of computing.

LEARNING OUTCOMES – PERSONAL ABILITIES

- A proper appreciation of current professional standards in software documentation, and professional legal and ethical standards relevant to the IT industry.
- Ability to work independently on a small project, planning and managing time.
- Ability to present work effectively to others, orally and written.
- An ability to use software tools appropriate to IT project planning and evaluation.
- Ability to write a CV and develop a personal career plan.
- Ability to reflect on relevant normative issues arising from computing practice.
SYLLABUS

- Research aims and objectives, literature search, critical analysis and review.
- Technical writing.
- Project planning, testing, risk analysis, requirements and design.
- Human factors in software development.
- Experimental design and software evaluation.
- Professional standards and issues.
- Legal, social and ethical issues in IT.
- Job seeking and career planning

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