



Module code	CYSPROJ_PCOM7E	NQF level	7
Credit value	60	Study duration	30 weeks

MSc Cyber Security Project

Module description

This module provides students with a systematic method for planning, executing, writing, and defending a dissertation for a research project on a selected topic of interest.

The student will undertake a substantive piece of independent work designed to demonstrate her/his ability to manage the learning process and achieve successful milestones and targets. Emphasis will be on developing skills in planning, writing, ethics, investigation, interpretation, evaluation, and critical thinking.

The project's topic will be agreed with a designated dissertation supervisor prior to commencement to ensure feasibility within the timeframe of the module. The research topic should be clearly focused on one or more of the CyBOK Knowledge Areas.

It should be noted that the topic of the literature review produced during the Research Methods and Professional Issues module, **cannot** be used in this Dissertation and Project module. This must be a separate project.

This module aims to:

- Enable students to plan and undertake an independent technical project into a specific topic of their choice
- Further develop and enhance students' technical skills such as coding, programming and algorithm development skills
- Develop students' transferable skills, including time and project management, organisational skills, data collection and analysis, and communication skills
- Develop students' critical thinking skills
- Develop students' understanding of their chosen topic to an advanced level, considering legal and ethical issues surrounding this topic
- Enable students develop a stand-alone artefact that meets the identified requirements and conforms to a design specification
- Help students develop and critically reflect on key skills – independent, self-aware and organised academic skills, as well as self-management skills with regards to time and tasks

Learning outcomes

On completion of this module, students will be able to:

- systematically identify research problem(s) within a suitable research topic involving computing
- carry out, structure, and present effectively a focused critical and analytical reading and synthesis of accessed information on the topic
- articulate the professional, legal, ethical and social issues related to the chosen topic and follow relevant professional codes of conduct
- evaluate critically the research conducted and present the resulting artefact as a form of a defence of the research.

Syllabus

- Requirements and structure of a dissertation project
- Choice of topic and the research process
- Reviewing the literature
- Project managing the research
- Self-organisation
- Ethical considerations
- Academic style
- Dissertation defence

Learning and teaching methods

The Learning and teaching methods for the module follow the intended online delivery strategy for the programme as a whole.

The learning process will be project-based, with lecturecasts providing relevant guiding material, as well as the provision of specified reading materials on the virtual learning platform. Dissertation supervisors will support students via phone and email, conducting formal supervision forums at least five times during the module.

Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities and strengths through evidence and reflections by maintaining an e-portfolio for the module.

Description of unit of assessment	Length/Duration	Submission date	Weighting
Dissertation	13,000 words	Week 28	80%
Artefact presentation and online conference	10 minutes	Week 30	20%