



**MONASH** University  
Information Technology

**FIT5552**  
**Minor thesis part 2**

**Unit Guide**

**Semester 1, 2012**

The information contained in this unit guide is correct at time of publication. The University has the right to change any of the elements contained in this document at any time.

*Last updated: 02 Feb 2012*

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## **FIT5552 Minor thesis part 2 - Semester 1, 2012**

This unit is a research/thesis unit for FIT Masters (Honours) degrees, taken in the final stage of the Masters (Honours) course.

Before enrolling in the unit, students need to have reached agreement with a potential supervisor about a research area/feasible research topic for their Minor Thesis project.

### **Mode of Delivery**

- Caulfield (Day)
- Clayton (Day)

### **Contact Hours**

Regular meetings with supervisor(s) over the course of the unit enrolment.

### **Workload**

The workload in this unit is equivalent to a 6 credit point unit, i.e. 12 hours study per week. Contact hours will consist of regular meetings with your supervisor.

### **Unit Relationships**

#### **Prohibitions**

FIT5014, FIT5016, FIT5017, FIT5018

#### **Prerequisites**

Students must be enrolled in a Faculty of IT Masters (Honours) degree.

#### **Chief Examiner**

Dr Michael Morgan

#### **Campus Lecturer**

##### **Caulfield**

**Dr Chris Ling**

**Dr Steven Wright**

## **Clayton**

**Dr Alan Dorin**

## **Gippsland**

**Dr Gour Karmakar**

# Academic Overview

## Outcomes

At the completion of this unit students will have made substantial and measurable progress towards-  
A knowledge and understanding of:

- their research topic and the wider research domain;
- research approaches and methods, and how to resolve research problems and issues;
- well honed skills in critical thinking, analysis, evaluation and synthesis.

Developed attitudes that enable them to:

- have confidence in their ability to undertake independent research, and to plan and execute an individual research project;
- appreciate the significance and contributions of a research culture in both academic and workplace contexts.

Developed the skills to:

- plan and undertake rigorous independent research;
- locate relevant research literature, and critically analyse and evaluate published research findings;
- identify open problems in current research and promising new research directions, and from this to define a viable research topic;
- develop a sound research design and feasible research project plan and schedule;
- communicate effectively research results in a variety of forms, including informal oral presentations, written reports, seminar presentations and poster presentations.

Although research projects are carried out individually, students will be part of a wider research group, with whom they will interact regularly, and participate in research seminars and discussions. At the completion of the unit students will have demonstrated the communication and teamwork skills necessary to:

- communicate research ideas effectively in formal or informal contexts;
- collaborate effectively with others involved in a research project (supervisors, research colleagues, industry collaborators).

## Graduate Attributes

Monash prepares its graduates to be:

1. responsible and effective global citizens who:

- a. engage in an internationalised world
- b. exhibit cross-cultural competence
- c. demonstrate ethical values

critical and creative scholars who:

- a. produce innovative solutions to problems

- b. apply research skills to a range of challenges
- c. communicate perceptively and effectively

## Assessment Summary

At the completion of the requirements for the thesis the following components of assessment will be completed:

Research Proposal: 5%; Literature Review: 10%; Interim Presentation: hurdle; Final Presentation: 5%; Thesis (normally 10,000 - 20,000 words): 80%

These assessment tasks will be completed over the course of several units in the Minor Thesis program but the overall grade for the thesis will only be finalised on completion of FIT5554 (24pts).

## Teaching Approach

### Research activities

Students will research an agreed thesis topic under the guidance of their supervisor and will receive feedback on their progress through regular meetings with their supervisor.

### Feedback

### Our feedback to You

Types of feedback you can expect to receive in this unit are:

- Other: Supervisor meetings and seminar presentations.

### Your feedback to Us

Monash is committed to excellence in education and regularly seeks feedback from students, employers and staff. One of the key formal ways students have to provide feedback is through SETU, Student Evaluation of Teacher and Unit. The University's student evaluation policy requires that every unit is evaluated each year. Students are strongly encouraged to complete the surveys. The feedback is anonymous and provides the Faculty with evidence of aspects that students are satisfied and areas for improvement.

For more information on Monash's educational strategy, and on student evaluations, see:

<http://www.monash.edu.au/about/monash-directions/directions.html>

<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/quality/student-evaluation-policy.html>

### Previous Student Evaluations of this unit

If you wish to view how previous students rated this unit, please go to

<https://emuapps.monash.edu.au/unitevaluations/index.jsp>

## Unit Schedule

Week	Activities	Assessment
0	Students will research an agreed thesis topic under the guidance of their supervisor and will receive feedback on their progress through regular meetings with their supervisor.	No formal assessment or activities are undertaken in week 0
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
	SWOT VAC	No formal assessment is undertaken SWOT VAC
	Examination period	LINK to Assessment Policy: <a href="http://policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/assessment-in-coursework-policy.html">http://policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/assessment-in-coursework-policy.html</a>

\*Unit Schedule details will be maintained and communicated to you via your MUSO (Blackboard or Moodle) learning system.

# Assessment Requirements

## Assessment Policy

Faculty Policy - Unit Assessment Hurdles

(<http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/resources/staff/edgov/policies/assessment-examinations/unit-assessment-hu>)

## Assessment Tasks

### Participation

This unit forms part of the sequence of units comprising the Minor Thesis in the Faculty of Information Technology.

The exit point for the Minor Thesis is FIT5554 - 24 cpts and is applicable to:

- Master of Information Technology (Honours),
- Master of Information Technology Professional,
- Master of Business Information Systems (Honours).

At the completion of the requirements for the thesis the following components of assessment will be completed:

- Research Proposal: 5%;
- Literature Review: 10%;
- Interim Presentation: hurdle;
- Final Presentation: 5%;
- Thesis (normally 10,000 - 20,000 words): 80%

These assessment tasks will be completed over the course of several units in the Minor Thesis program but the overall grade for the thesis will only be finalised on completion of FIT5554 -24 cpts.

Please refer to the Unit Guides for FIT5551, and FIT5554 for a description of the assessment items to be completed over the course of the Minor Thesis.

## Examinations

### Assignment submission

It is a University requirement

(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/conduct/plagiarism-procedures.html>) for students to submit an assignment coversheet for each assessment item. Faculty Assignment coversheets can be found at <http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/resources/student/forms/>. Please check with your Lecturer on the submission method for your assignment coversheet (e.g. attach a file to the online assignment submission, hand-in a hard copy, or use an online quiz).

## **Online submission**

If Electronic Submission has been approved for your unit, please submit your work via the VLE site for this unit, which you can access via links in the my.monash portal.

## **Extensions and penalties**

Submission must be made by the due date otherwise penalties will be enforced.

You must negotiate any extensions formally with your campus unit leader via the in-semester special consideration process:

<http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/resources/student/equity/special-consideration.html>.

## **Returning assignments**

Students can expect assignments to be returned within two weeks of the submission date or after receipt, whichever is later

## Other Information

### Policies

Monash has educational policies, procedures and guidelines, which are designed to ensure that staff and students are aware of the University's academic standards, and to provide advice on how they might uphold them. You can find Monash's Education Policies at:

<http://policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/education/index.html>

Key educational policies include:

- Plagiarism  
(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/conduct/plagiarism-policy.html>)
- Assessment  
(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/assessment-in-coursework-p>)
- Special Consideration  
(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/special-consideration-policy.h>)
- Grading Scale  
(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/assessment/grading-scale-policy.html>)
- Discipline: Student Policy  
(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/conduct/student-discipline-policy.html>)
- Academic Calendar and Semesters (<http://www.monash.edu.au/students/key-dates/>);
- Orientation and Transition (<http://www.infotech.monash.edu.au/resources/student/orientation/>);  
and
- Academic and Administrative Complaints and Grievances Policy  
(<http://www.policy.monash.edu/policy-bank/academic/education/management/complaints-grievance-policy>)
- Codes of Practice for Teaching and Learning  
(<http://www.policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/education/conduct/suppdocs/code-of-practice-tea>)

### Student services

The University provides many different kinds of support services for you. Contact your tutor if you need advice and see the range of services available at [www.monash.edu.au/students](http://www.monash.edu.au/students). For Sunway see <http://www.monash.edu.my/Student-services>, and for South Africa see <http://www.monash.ac.za/current/>

The Monash University Library provides a range of services and resources that enable you to save time and be more effective in your learning and research. Go to <http://www.lib.monash.edu.au> or the library tab in my.monash portal for more information. At Sunway, visit the Library and Learning Commons at <http://www.lib.monash.edu.my/>. At South Africa visit <http://www.lib.monash.ac.za/>.

Academic support services may be available for students who have a disability or medical condition. Registration with the Disability Liaison Unit is required. Further information is available as follows:

- Website: <http://monash.edu/equity-diversity/disability/index.html>;
- Email: [dlu@monash.edu](mailto:dlu@monash.edu)
- Drop In: Equity and Diversity Centre, Level 1 Gallery Building (Building 55), Monash University, Clayton Campus, or Student Community Services Department, Level 2, Building 2, Monash University, Sunway Campus
- Telephone: 03 9905 5704, or contact the Student Advisor, Student Community Services at 03 55146018 at Sunway