

# Assessment

It is intended that Thesis A cover the planning/prepping and completing some initial work on the project, while Thesis B includes the research (lab or otherwise) and the writing of the thesis itself. The following course assessments relate to the student's research planning (A), conducting the research project and writing the thesis (B), and disseminating the results in different forms (A/B).

The proposal is a potential approach to assessment in the two courses, attempting to standardise assessment in a way that reflects current practice. It is designed to provide consistency across the schools, while also allowing for flexibility to reflect the different requirements of school/groups/projects.

## Thesis A

1. Interim report – 75%. This may include
  - a. Literature review – to include problem statement, hypothesis and aims, indicative length is 10-15 pages, ~70%
  - b. Project planning – to include proposed solutions, thesis outline, preliminary work done ~20%
  - c. Document presentation – ~10%
  - d. Risk assessment – Must be completed to move on – Requirement
2. Project dependent deliverable work – 25%
  - a. School/project dependent, could be a presentation

All to be marked by supervisor or with an additional assessor.

## Thesis B

1. Thesis – 75%
  - a. Lit review/background and putting the results in context (10%)
  - b. Execution of the research project, quality of analysis, discussion of results, (50%)
  - c. Conclusions and value added (20%)
  - d. Document presentation (20%)
2. Supervisor mark – 10%
  - a. Many possibilities. Some possible suggestions are:
    - i. marking of lab books
    - ii. assessing levels of intellectual contribution (e.g., did the student come up with ideas or were they just a pair of hands)
    - iii. attendance at lab and meetings

[INTERNAL ONLY: Should result in the supervisor marking the thesis (point 1) just on the written thesis document itself (no inflation)]
3. Two forms of dissemination in addition to the thesis document itself – 15%
  - a. Oral presentation, poster, other media, practical demonstration, conference abstract, web page, etc.

1 and 3 to be marked by 2 markers, with at least one of these to be a marker other than the supervisor or co-supervisor.

[INTERNAL ONLY: The weighting of Thesis A in the honours calculation may vary between 0-50% of the total (combined) thesis.]

## **Proposal –**

**Fail in Thesis A** – must re-enrol in Thesis A again.

**Fail in Thesis B** – Students have three options.

- 1) re-enrol for Thesis A & B again, new project and supervisor
- 2) re-enrol for Thesis B again, same project and supervisor – needs consent
- 3) Student does further work, re-submits thesis after a max of 6 weeks. *Course* mark capped at 50%. If still not satisfactory, then needs to re-enrol.
  - a. This option is only available if the original mark was  $\geq 40$ , OR if the student is in their last semester before graduation (regardless of the original mark).

**Late Policy** – In all cases, special consideration can be applied for BEFORE the due date. This is at the discretion of the thesis coordinator, but should only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

- For all other assignments beside thesis – zero (0) mark is awarded
- For thesis – 5 marks off the *thesis* for every day late. Penalty applies until the marks for the *course* decrease to 50, and further lateness does not result in failure of the *course*, but might be a failure of the thesis (weekends count as days).
  - o N.B. According to the recommended faculty guidelines on thesis, the actual thesis makes up 75% of Thesis B. The other 25% is 10% supervisor mark (for marking the process of doing the thesis) and 15% for two other deliverables (i.e., oral, poster, webpage, abstract, etc)
  - o Example #1, if the thesis is assessed at a 77, but was turned in 5 days late, the mark for the thesis is 52 ( $77-5*5$ ). If the other 25% is marked at 75, the course mark is 57.75.
  - o Example #2, if the thesis is assessed at 68, but was turned in 7 days late. The thesis mark is 33 ( $68-5*7$ ). If the other 25% is marked at 70%, the calculated course mark would be 42.25, but would be brought up to the final mark of 50 for the course. (i.e., you don't fail because of lateness)
- Any thesis not turned in within 6 weeks after the deadline will be finalised at zero (0) marks.

**Discrepancy amongst thesis marks** - Thesis marks should be provided by the two assessors independently, without collusion or knowledge of the other mark.

- For any mark difference less than or equal to 10 marks, the unweighted average.
- For any mark difference of 11-15 marks, the Thesis Coordinator discusses with the two markers about why they gave their marks and assists the two markers to come to an agreement on a final mark.
- For any mark difference greater than 15 marks, and third assessor must be used. An unweighted average of the three marks will be used.
- If the situation arises that one mark is invalid, the Thesis Coordinator has the discretion to eliminate that mark and average the other two (if they fail within the 10 mark difference).