

Final Year Project

The Project consists of three parts:

- Literature review and project plan
- Oral and slide presentation of the literature review and project plan
- Dissertation (which will carefully *incorporate* a literature survey)

Submission deadlines

Literature survey and project plan:

Wednesday, 13 December, 12:00 mid-day

Presentation:

This will be scheduled for the 3rd or 4th week of Spring term. (You will be given a scheduled time to present; if you have a valid and evidenced reason, you can request that this be rescheduled.)

You must submit your presentation slides via FASer before your scheduled presentation date.

Dissertation:

Friday, 27 April, 12:00 mid-day

Submit:

One online copy via Online Coursework Submission (FASer):

<https://www.essex.ac.uk/e-learning/tools/faser>

Assessment

Literature Review and project plan: 15 %

Presentation: 15%

Dissertation: 70%

Maximum lengths:

Literature Review: 3,000 words (2,500 words recommended)

Dissertation: 10,000 words (*including* the literature review, footnotes, appendices, bibliography, etc.)

Note: this is a maximum; a shorter word count is often preferable; *content* and *clarity* are what is important.

Attend all lectures, pc-lab sessions, and workshops given in support of EC831. Lecture and class participation will be recorded in several ways, including attendance, and participation in Moodle forums.

Moodle- check the module material on Moodle for all lectures and lab-sessions.

Oral and slide presentation of literature review and project plan

The project includes a mandatory oral presentation with accompanying slides, worth 15% of the mark. We have introduced this to help our students to develop a wider range of skills that will help you becoming more employable in the labour market. Gaining an experience in public speaking and preparing a slide presentation will give you a 'leg up' in the academic and professional world!

We will assign you a time and a location (a 'session' with other students) to give your presentation, likely to be in weeks 3-4 of Spring term; if the initially proposed time conflicts with your schedule, you can request a change. You will give an oral presentation - with slides - of your literature review and project plan, lasting about 10 minutes, in front of a member of the academic staff. After this the lecturer will take three minutes to ask you questions about your presentation. The lecturer may also interrupt you briefly during your talk to ask clarification questions.

Remember to bring your presentation on a USB stick, as well as submitting it via FASer in advance.

Presentations will take place as a 'session' with several other students. After your presentation, the lecturer will give you some immediate feedback. The mark for your presentation will be given along with the mark for your literature survey and project plan. Marking guidelines for presentations are given in the table further down.

Further guidance on presentations, and supporting reading materials and resources will be provided.

Amending your Title

- Changes of titles are only permitted with the permission of your supervisor as well as from the Director of Undergraduate Projects. To request a change, please contact your supervisor and the Director of Undergraduate Projects; they will respond, and will update your details or give comments.
- Significant changes should not normally be made after the end of the Autumn Term, but small changes for clarity and focus will still typically be permitted.

Project supervision

- You will be allocated to a supervisor according to the topic of your project.
- Supervision can only be received by your designated supervisor, typically during their designated academic support hours. (Other academic staff may be consulted on matters that relate to the modules you have taken with them, during their designated academic support hours.)
- It is important that you contact your supervisor no later than the second week of the Autumn Term (by 20 October 2017) and again no later than the second week of the Spring Term (by 26 January 2018).
- You should expect to see your supervisor for up to four hours spread throughout the Autumn and Spring Terms.
- All project supervision should be completed no later than the last day of the Spring Term. **No further supervision should be expected during the Easter holidays.**

Academic progress

- You are expected to take the initiative to contact your supervisor!
- **By the end of week 8 (middle of November)** – show a first draft of your literature review and project plan to your supervisor, along with a draft of your presentation slides.
- **By the end of February** – show a first draft of your dissertation to your supervisor, demonstrating a substantial part of the project has been completed.

Criteria for Literature Review and Project Plan

Mark Range	Overall quality	Contributing Factors		
		Structure	English	Project Plan
90-100%	Displays exceptional critical awareness of the relevant literature	Exceptional standard of professionalism in organising the material	Displays exceptional writing skills	Displays exceptional clarity and competence in the structure
80-89%	Displays excellent critical awareness of the relevant literature	Excellent standard of professionalism in organising the material	Displays excellent writing skills	Displays excellent clarity and competence in the structure
70-79%	Very good grasp of the relevant literature	Very good standard of professionalism in organising the material	Very good writing skills	Displays very good clarity and competence in the structure
60-69%	Good grasp of the relevant literature	Good standard in organising the material	Displays good writing skills	Displays general clarity and competence in the structure
50-59%	Satisfactory grasp of the literature	Satisfactory standard in organising the material	Displays satisfactory writing skills	Displays satisfactory clarity and competence in the structure
40-49%	Potential grasp of the literature but showing major gaps in understanding	The review may be unsatisfactory organised	Displays unsatisfactory writing skills in various parts	Displays unsatisfactory clarity in the structure
30-39%	Inadequate grasp of the relevant literature	The review is poorly organised	The review is overall very poorly written	Very poorly structured plan
0-29%	Wholly inadequate grasp of the literature	The review is very poorly organised	The review is extremely poorly written	Extremely poor, or absent, plan.

Criteria for the Oral and Slide Presentation (of the literature review and project plan)

First class (69.5% and above)	Upper second class - 2.1 (59.5 – 69.4%)	Lower second class - 2.2 (49.5–59.4%)	Third - 3rd class (39.5–49.4%)
Discussion: Demonstrates a personal and nuanced understanding of the topic and the relevant literature. Responds adequately to questions.	Achieves most of these goals.	Achieves some of these goals	Achieves few of these goals.
Content: Organised outline of literature, clearly related to topic and to project plan. Project plan is realistic and has some detail.	Achieves most of these goals.	Achieves some of these goals	Achieves few of these goals.
Slides: Slides are clear, compelling, relevant, presented in a meaningful order, and integrate with the speech.	Achieves most of these goals.	Achieves some of these goals	Achieves few of these goals.
Speech: Speaks in professional, complete and grammatical sentences, with poise and measured confidence.	Achieves most of these goals.	Achieves some of these goals	Achieves few of these goals.

Criteria for the Dissertation

Mark Range	Overall quality	Structure	English	Analysis
90-100%	Exceptional project, highly original and extensive. Suitable for postgraduate study	Exceptional standard of professionalism in organising the material	Displays exceptional writing skills	Exceptional competence in several areas of economic research*
80-89%	Excellent project with significantly original element	Excellent standard of professionalism in organising the material	Displays excellent writing skills	Excellent competence in several areas of economic research*
70-79%	Very good project with some original material	Very good standard of professionalism in organising the material	Very good writing skills	Very good competence in several areas of economic research*

60-69%	Good project with some original material	Good standard in organising the material	Displays good writing skills	Good competence in several areas of economic research*
50-59%	Decent project, with satisfactorily original material	Satisfactory standard in organising the material	Displays decent writing skills	Displays satisfactory levels of competence in at least one area*
40-49%	Potential contribution to the subject but insufficient demonstration of competence	The project may be unsatisfactory organised	Displays unsatisfactory writing skills in several parts of the project	Displays satisfactory competence in one area but other areas are inadequate
30-39%	Inadequate project with insufficient demonstration of competence	The project is poorly organised	The project is overall very poorly written	Inadequate competence in all areas of economic research
0-29%	Wholly inadequate project	The project is very poorly organised	The project is extremely poorly written	Failure to demonstrate competence in any area of economic research

**** eg theoretical analysis, critical discussion of the literature, econometrics (if needed), data presentation and analysis (if needed), use of examples, case studies, etc. etc.***

Presentation and length

- Pay particular attention to the guide to good practice in assessed work, you may also like to read '*Excellent Dissertations!*' by Peter Levin (Amazon or Open University Press, McGraw-Hill). Also see "Writing Economics," by Neugboren and Jacobsen, and the materials provided on the EC831 pages.
- **You *must* include a complete bibliography in the form of a list of references**

Every entry in the bibliography must be referred to at some point in the project and every citation in the project must be included in the bibliography!

Submission

- Complete the final version of your project *at least one full week before the deadline* to allow for last minute delays in printing and checking.
- Online submission only of your project - no later than 12.00hrs (midday) on the specified deadlines!
- No extensions are granted for the submission of projects. In particular, extensions are not normally granted because of any form of computer failure.

Any overlap between your project and any other submitted work *must be acknowledged* in your project, in accordance with University Regulation 6.20. The regulations can be viewed on the following website: <https://www.essex.ac.uk/governance/regulations>