YOUR PROJECT SHOULD BE:

• A substantial piece of independent and original work
• A highlight of your university experience: exercising all the skills you have acquired on a topic of personal interest
• The ‘capstone’ of your degree, demonstrating that you can think and work like a member of your discipline or profession
EACH PROJECT IS UNIQUE, BUT TYPICALLY INVOLVES (SEE DRPS):

• Gathering and understanding background material
• Solving conceptual problems
• Design of an artifact
• Implementation
• Experimentation and evaluation
• Writing up
THIS REQUIRES STEADY EFFORT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

• Gathering and understanding background  weeks 1-5, sem 1
• Solving conceptual problems
• Design of an artifact  By week 10/11, sem 1
• Implementation  By week 2/3, sem 2
• Experimentation and evaluation  By week 6 sem 2
• Writing up  Draft by week 9 sem 2
TIME & TASK MANAGEMENT IS CRUCIAL:

Find a method that works for you, e.g.

‘Software engineer’ – agile, trello, estimate & track time...

‘Researcher’ - lab book, days in library, days at the bench...

‘Paperback writer’ – put in 3 hours a day, 4 days a week...

‘Write now’ – create an outline of your dissertation now, imagine its contents, and fill it in as you go...
FORMAL CHECKPOINTS
(N.B. SOME CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS):

**Semester 1**
- Week 1: meet supervisor, and agree project management
- Week 5: hand in background chapter for supervisor feedback
- Week 11: meet second marker for feedback on work so far

**Semester 2**
- Week 2: Practice presentation to small group
- Week 7: Project day (posters and demonstrations)
- Week 9: (recommended) draft dissertation
- Week 11: hand in dissertation
- Exam week 1: presentation to supervisor and second marker
YOUR SUPERVISOR

(If you are still unsure who this is, contact me asap!)

• is an expert who has offered their time to help you.
• is not your manager – completing the project is your responsibility, and they should not have to chase you.
• You should meet them regularly, at their convenience, come prepared, keep notes (record?), and don’t skip
• Will be marking your project, so best to impress!
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT:

See the projects website: www.inf.ed.ac.uk/teaching/courses/proj

• More detailed explanation of all information above
• Links to external resources, on writing, statistics, etc.

Workshops (TBA) related to checkpoints:

• Literature search
• Writing
• Evaluation
• Presentations
ADDITIONAL ADVICE:

• Clarify your expectations with your supervisor up front
• Look at the assessment criteria now — and always keep in mind that assessment is based on the dissertation content
• Talk to each other (e.g. find a project buddy)
• Talk to previous students (MInf2 students are a great resource)
• Don’t delay dealing with problems (contact me if needed)
• Don’t forget to enjoy it!