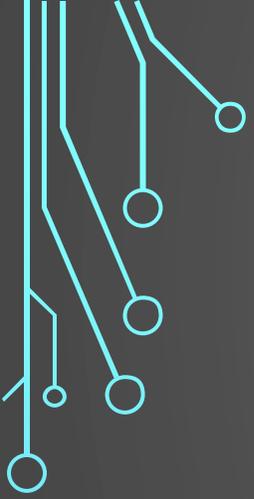
A decorative background featuring a light blue circuit board pattern with various lines and nodes, set against a dark grey background with a subtle circular gradient.

# INTRODUCTION TO HONOURS PROJECTS (UG4 & MINF) 2020

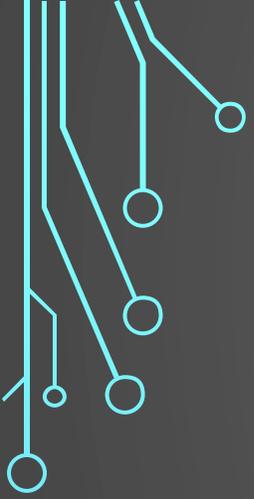
BARBARA WEBB

PROJECT COORDINATOR

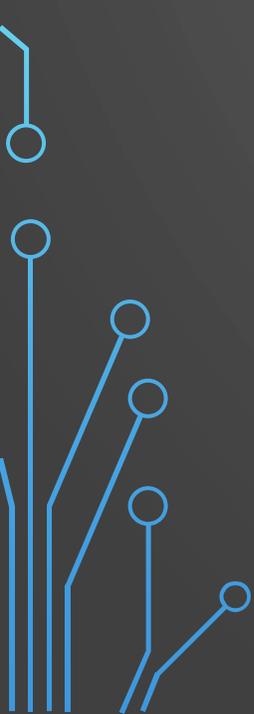
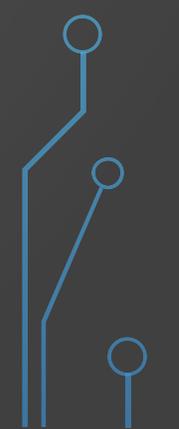


## YOUR PROJECT SHOULD BE:

- 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
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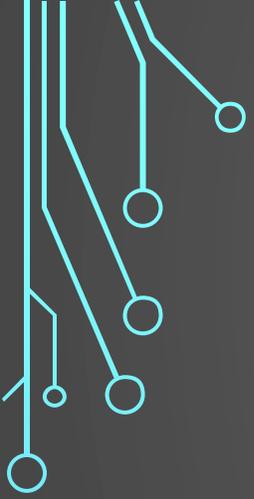


# EACH PROJECT IS UNIQUE, BUT TYPICALLY INVOLVES (SEE DRPS) :

- 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

For each,  
confirm  
by  
returning  
an online  
form

## 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](http://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!