The Senior Sophister projects consist of real problems for real clients. As such, they require real solutions which are usable by the client and the degree to which students achieve this is an important factor in determining their project grades.

The project work is divided into three phases:

1. A definition phase, culminating in an interim report to be presented in the last week of Semester 1;

2. An execution phase, which extends from then until week 9 of Semester 2;


The project is a substantial part of the year’s work. Students are expected to work on the project about 1 day per week during term and considerably more during vacation, amounting to a total of about 40 working days, including familiarisation and report writing. An outline schedule for the project work is shown on the next page.

Students are expected to consult with their supervisors regularly, ideally weekly, and to submit regular written progress reports in addition to their interim and final reports. Supervisors will report to the project examiners in this regard.

There are two layouts for project reports, one of which students are required to follow:

- A layout and format suitable for Data Analysis type projects, where the nature of the project is analytical, organisational or procedural;

- A layout and format suitable for Systems Development type
projects, where the end product is a piece of developed software and/or a computer package implementation.

Each project is marked by the Supervisor and an Internal Examiner. Marks are reviewed by the External Examiner and the Director of Studies.

**Students may be examined orally by the Director of Studies, the External Examiner & an Internal Examiner, in the presence of the Supervisor. Please note that the times for the oral examinations will be posted on the notice board during the Trinity Term.**

The examination will refer to problem definition, review, analysis and solution as well as report writing. The examiners will take into account the level of difficulty of the project. Each supervisor will report on special difficulties, the supervisor's input, the student's aptitudes and application, relationships with the client and report accuracy and/or software quality.

### Assessment

**Submission of Project report**

Project reports must be submitted by the deadline given. Where a student has difficulties meeting the deadline due to illness, personal circumstances or a particular problem with the project, the student or the student's tutor may make an application to the Course coordinator for an extension of the deadline. Applications for extensions cannot be made retrospectively. The decision to grant such an extension is at the sole discretion of the Course coordinator.

Where a project report is submitted late, the following rules will apply:

- Five marks will be lost immediately for the first day the project report is overdue. For each subsequent day of the first week overdue, one mark will be deducted for each working day (Monday through Friday) or part of a working day that the project report is late.

- For the second and third weeks overdue, 2 marks per working day or part thereof will be deducted.
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<td>A project report which is more than three weeks overdue will have 0 marks will be awarded for it.</td>
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**Note that these rules override the normal rules for submission of assessments.** Where an extension to the project deadline is granted, a project not submitted by the revised deadline will not be accepted.

The project mark is derived as an agreed mark between the internal examiner and the supervisor. If agreement cannot be reached another examiner will be appointed to adjudicate, the external examiner will also be consulted as to the grade.

The student who achieves the highest mark in the project shall be awarded the IBM David Dier Memorial Prize.