6. HONOURS PROJECT

The Honours Project is considered to be of great importance. This is reflected in the weighting given to it, being equivalent to two standard-sized subjects. The feature is “learning by doing”. The project is intended to be a challenge to the students’ intellectual and innovative abilities and to give them the opportunities to integrate and apply the knowledge and analytical skills gained in previous stages of study. It should also provide students with some appreciation of the entire process of problem solving. The progress from concept to final implementation and testing, through problem identification and the selection of alternative solutions will be emphasized.

6.1 Project Management

To facilitate the assessment of the student's work and to promote the ability to work independently, each student will be assigned one project under the supervision of an academic staff member, although several students may work on different aspects of a larger project.

The assignment of projects is expected to be completed by the month of June preceding the beginning of the final year of studies. Guidelines on the operation of the project are given in Section 6.3.

6.2 Project Assessment

At the completion of the project, students will be required to give an oral presentation/demonstration of the project to an audience of fellow students, staff and industrialists. Two hardcopies and one softcopy of the final report, and the daily log-book are to be submitted at the end of the second semester. The reports will go to an assessment panel consisting of the project supervisor and one other staff member of the Department.

Assessment of the project will be split into 3 areas:
(i) project reports (including project proposal, preliminary report and final report);
(ii) oral presentations; and
(iii) work done over the whole project period (including daily log-book and demonstration).

The Project Management Team, which is composed of the Programme Leader and staff members from teaching sections, will oversee the overall standard of the projects to ensure a reasonable degree of uniformity of assessment.
6.3 Guidelines on the Operation of the Honours Project

(i) Project Proposal

Each student is required to submit a lucid, comprehensive project proposal to his/her supervisor, which will be used as the basis of project development.

In the project proposal, the following points should be included:
- Statement of problems and objectives
- Result of literature survey conducted (if any)
- Approach to tackling the problem
- Outline design of hardware and software
- Preliminary project schedule

(ii) Daily Log-Book

Students are required to submit a daily log-book with the final report. The log-book should record anything that is important to the project. Typical contents include monthly summaries, notes of meetings, planning and actions, design details, experimental data and analysis, observations and remarks. The daily log-book will be reviewed, signed and dated by the supervisor(s) at least once a month.

(iii) Preliminary Report

Students are required to prepare a preliminary report after one semester’s work. One copy of the progress report should be submitted to the supervisor, and another one to the General Office of the Department. This forms the basis for the supervisors to review the progress against the declared objectives, and to obviate any discrepancies if necessary.

(iv) Oral Presentation

Students are required to give an interim presentation after submission of preliminary report and a final presentation after submission of final report.
(v) Submission of Final Report

Students are required to submit two hardcopies and one softcopy of the final report to the General Office of the Department. They are also required to upload the soft copy of the final report to the Turnitin system. The students may use the Turnitin system to check their own final reports to prevent unintentional plagiarism. Nevertheless, it is the students’ responsibility to ensure that their final reports are plagiarism-free.

(vi) Demonstration

Each student has to give a demonstration of his/her final project results (such as hardware or software product) in the laboratory to demonstrate the project to students, staff and industrialists.