

Notes on the Interim Report for 5E1 MAI Engineering Research Project

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Rationale

The “interim report” (IR) as it appears in the descriptor for 5E1 Engineering Project should complement and not duplicate the “Research Proposal” (RP) as it appears in 5E2 Research Methods. Note at the outset that for C/CD/D streams the IR is worth 5% while the RP is worth 25%. Regardless of the credit weighting within each module, the IR is a smaller fraction of the overall module score than the RP.

The IR should therefore concentrate on work to date which may include any of preliminary algorithm development, preliminary experimentation, training, testing, sourcing of materials, reading background literature. We appreciate that students believe they have less time for 5E1 in the first semester than the second, hence we do not expect long reports or details of mature results.

Clearly there must be some overlap between the IR and RP because the student should explain what the project is about in both cases but the overlap should be limited.

Requirements for the Interim Report

1. Less than 5 pages long, with numbered pages
2. The heading states the title of the project, the author, the supervisor and date
3. Describe the project in one paragraph, state the goals and the innovative aspects
4. Describe the background literature search done to date
5. Describe preliminary work done to date in the project and state any interim results
6. Explain whether any preliminary result agrees with the expected outcome so far and state a workplan for the rest of the project completion

Suggested Headings

1. Introduction (Containing the project statement, goals and innovative aspects. This section will overlap with the RP) [~ 1 page]
2. Previous work (Containing a description of literature survey to date and a paragraph on how that informs the project work. This section may overlap with the RP.) [~ 1 page]
3. Progress to date (Containing description of any preliminary results, testing training, material sourcing etc.) [~ 2 pages]
4. Discussion and Projected Workplan (Containing discussion of whether progress to date shows some surprising results which means the workplan is affected, or whether all is proceeding to plan, and stating that workplan.) [~ 1 page]

Marking Scheme

Project goals and novelty summarised succinctly, correctly and clearly	1%
Literature survey reflects student effort	1%
Progress to date reflects semester 1 expectations	1%
Workplan realistic and attention paid to connecting results and expectations if results available	1%
Language, formatting appropriate for a scientific document	1%