

# Applied MSc Dissertations

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## M.Sc. dissertations

You will already have been told by Denis the basic idea of what a dissertation is, how much work is needed, how to go about getting help, and so on.

This talk is just a few slides explaining the specifics of the Applied Maths M.Sc. dissertation.

## The timeline. . .

- ▶ *March*: you will get a list of possible projects. Talk to potential supervisors if you are interested in the topic, and alternative ones (if agreed by the supervisor) beyond those in the list are also possible.
- ▶ *April*: You can choose your preferred topics (with *four* preferences) on Canvas by filling the form.
- ▶ *End of April/early May*: you will be allocated a supervisor based on your preference (we can not guarantee that it is your first preference). You are expected to contact your potential supervisor for an initial meeting, and possibly get a reading list.
- ▶ *Beginning of June*: you should start of the dissertation
- ▶ *4pm on 11 September (Friday)*: Deadline to submit your dissertation—no presentation is required (but could be some kind of viva middle in the process).

## The process . . .

Meet your supervisor regularly (at least every another week). The supervisor will be able to check your progress on the topic and identify issues which need to be resolved, if you can send an early draft, though you should not expect your supervisor to proofread your whole report.

This is also another opportunity to practise your writing before the summer dissertation. Use the feedback from previous assignments, and the writing resources from the library and elsewhere, to help you.

## The assessment. . .

The reports will be assessed by your supervisor and a second examiner.

If their individual marks differ by more than 10 marks, a third person will be assigned to give independent judgement.

## How the dissertations are marked?

Your dissertation is marked based on five main criteria:

- ▶ Abstract and Introduction (5 marks)
- ▶ Visual and Formatting (10 marks)
- ▶ Writing (15 marks)
- ▶ Accuracy (20 marks)
- ▶ Content (25 marks)
- ▶ Understanding (25 marks)

There is no oral presentation in the past, but you should expect a viva (more details later) to show your understanding of the topic, and to answer any questions from the examiners.

## During the M.Sc. dissertations ...

On the dissertation itself,

- ▶ Arrange to meet your supervisor regularly (every one to two weeks). Ask them lots of questions!
- ▶ If you intend to be away for more than a week, let your supervisor (and me) know.
- ▶ Please don't copy material from others, or from your own previous work. Know general techniques to avoid plagiarism.
- ▶ Write up as you go along, so that your supervisor can read (at least part of) your work and give you feedback.
- ▶ Keep a good record of the resources you have used, and make sure to reference them properly in your dissertation.

## A few more things. . .

- ▶ It takes time to write (well), and do not leave it to the last minute.
- ▶ Consider applying for mitigating circumstances, if your performance is significantly affected. However, the applications are approved with (strong) evidences, and the extension can not be too long if you aim to graduate in December.
- ▶ Report any potential problems if needed.

# Attendance

- ▶ You should have received emails about the attendance requirements.
- ▶ What if do not check out

## Know all the resources

- ▶ Most of them are in the Transferrable Skills Module (writing, Latex, MATLAB)
- ▶ Consider using Overleaf
- ▶ Library books and journal articles
- ▶ Bibtex with MathSciNet and Google Scholar

**Questions?**