

Master of Information Technology projects - Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How early in my course can I complete my mandatory 25-point project subject?

A. In general you can enrol when you have completed 50 points of Master of IT coursework subjects, beyond the Foundation subjects. For INFO90008 the prerequisites are a little different; see the Handbook entry for the subject.

Q. Can I freely choose which 25-point project subject to take?

A. No, your project subject is prescribed by the Handbook and is specific to your specialisation. For example, if you are in the "Distributed Computing" stream, you need to take COMP90019 Distributed Computing Project. Moreover, a research topic in COMP90019 should fall in the area of distributed computing, broadly interpreted, or have a component which does.

Q. Will I need a project supervisor, and if so, how do I arrange that?

A. You need to find a research topic and an academic who is willing to supervise. The supervisor can be an academic staff member in CIS or in Geomatics, including research-only staff. Finding a supervisor may require a bit of time, so you are encouraged to start your search early.

Q. Are lists of project ideas and supervisors available?

A. Yes. To find academics with an interest in your research area, check out staff home pages, or perhaps Find an Expert, <https://www.findanexpert.unimelb.edu.au/>. Also have a look at the list of sample projects at <https://people.eng.unimelb.edu.au/harald/private/sampleProjectsCIS.pdf> (or go to <https://cis.unimelb.edu.au/interaction-design/masters-projects/> if you are in the HCI stream). These lists are never completely up to date, and are mainly provided to give you some idea of research interests in the School. They should certainly help you locate staff with the research expertise that is relevant to you.

Q. When should I have settled on a project topic?

A. You really should have that done well before the semester starts, including having somebody who agrees to supervise. Your project should be registered by the end of Week 1, and your detailed research proposal (800-1000 words) must be submitted to your supervisor by the end of Week 2.

Q. How do I 'register' my project?

A. Around the start of semester, you will be pointed to an online form to complete.

Q. Can I fit several of the 25-point project subjects into my study plan?

A. No, in general that is not possible. You will need to consult the Handbook to see if there are exceptions. Note that, if you are in the "HCI" stream, then the 25-point INFO90009 HCI Project (Advanced) is a possible elective. All questions about course requirements and your study plan should go to the MIT Course Coordinator.

Q. As a Master of IT student, can I do the 25-point project over summer?

A. If you are in the "Computing", "Cybersecurity", or "Spatial IT" stream, the answer is 'yes', provided you are able to find a supervisor. If you are in the "Distributed Computing" or "HCI" stream, the answer is 'no', since COMP90019 Distributed Computing Project and INFO9000x HCI Project are offered in normal semesters only. Also note that there is no guarantee that you will be able to enrol in COMP90055 or GEOM90043 over summer. It requires that you have a topic and a supervisor, and it can be difficult to find supervision for the summer term, because most academics will take their annual leave and/or spend time at conferences. If you contemplate a summer project, you should sort that out in good time, and have a Plan B ready if supervision turns out to be unavailable.

Q. I have successfully enrolled into my 25-point project subject, but it has not started yet - what happens next?

A. If you are enrolled in INFO90008 or INFO90009, consult the LMS page for the subject. If you are enrolled in COMP90019, COMP90055 or GEOM90043 in semester 1 or 2, you will, after a short period, be enrolled (automatically) in an LMS 'Learning Community'. We use this Learning Community for communication across several project subjects. The Learning Community is where you will receive further information about deadlines, and instructions for how to register (confirm) your project. If you are enrolled over summer, we don't have a need for the Learning Community, and communication then happens via the COMP90055 or GEOM90043 LMS site.

Q. I have successfully enrolled and also completed the online registration of my project. Now I am set to go, right?

A. Yes, and you should arrange to meet with your supervisor as soon as possible. Also, do keep in mind that the MIT Course Coordinator reserves the right to check that your project is relevant to your Master of IT specialisation. If your project topic is mis-directed, the MIT Course Coordinator can insist, before the end of Week 2, that you find a better project.

Q. If I have a question that has not been answered in this FAQ, where do I go?

A. It depends on the question. If it is about enrolment variation, contact Artem Polyvyanyy, artem.polyvyanyy@unimelb.edu.au. If it is about course advice or your study plan, or you want to check whether a project topic is acceptable for your particular Master of IT specialisation, contact the Course Coordinator, Egemen Tanin, etanin@unimelb.edu.au. If it is subject related, contact the relevant subject coordinator:

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INFO90008, INFO90009: Vas Kostakos, vassilis.kostakos@unimelb.edu.au

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