Module Specification

Professional Practice Team Project

Version: 2027-28, v1.0, Approved

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Professional Practice Team Project

Module code: UFCEKJ-30-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2027-28

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Arts, Technology and Environment

School: CATE School of Computing and Creative Technologies

Partner institutions: None

Field: Computer Science and Creative Technologies

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: Advanced Practice Team Project 2026-27

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: In this module, we will form teams and be responsible for the delivery of a live data science project with feedback from stakeholders. We will focus on mastering team skills such as communication and project management as well as specialising and sharpening our data skills.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: In addition to the learning outcomes, the educational experience may explore, develop, and practise but not formally discretely assess a range of professional, risk management and interpersonal challenges typically faced by the data scientist in working with technology and people.

Outline syllabus: Students are given the opportunity to tackle a complete data science project in a live client situation in consultancy teams.

A wide range of project types is typically involved, including information analysis, requirements engineering, feasibility studies, web design, system development, model design, strategic planning, systems evaluation, user training and support and process redesign.

Projects usually involve external organisations, and students are matched with project opportunities in accordance with a range of factors including individual goals, preferences and disciplinary specialisms.

Consultancy teams are generally expected to:

prepare their own team-working methodology and operate in a substantially self-managed fashion

carry out a rigorous initial investigation and appraisal, taking into account existing processes in their client organisation and demonstrating understanding of legacy systems and their evolution

negotiate, agree and document a project definition that reflects the problem to be solved, will address user requirements measurably, is related explicitly to context, scoped manageably but with sufficient depth and challenge, and demonstrates long-term thinking

undertake the agreed data science project, and in so doing tackle some or all of the following:-

user-centred design

appropriate procurement and/or system development

model development, user training, support and client documentation

production of the agreed deliverables

business process redesign

systematic testing and evaluation to appropriate standards

formulate recommendations for follow-on changes in processes, demonstrating a responsible approach to sustainability, continuity, the client's long-term strategic interests and ongoing systems evolution and management

use a systematic project management methodology to delegate tasks and roles to team members in accordance with individual specialisms, interests and needs, and manage individual contributions and quality effectively

utilise relevant literature, resources and expertise effectively, including previous experience and supervisor advice

make explicit choices of methods, tools, techniques and technologies from across a range, deploy them and evaluate their effectiveness in context

employ reflective practice to recognise and manage the skills, knowledge and methodological awareness already available to the team and those that need to be acquired for project success

demonstrate a professional, engaged approach to the client’s business, managing expectations and risk and delivering sustainably

review and write up all aspects of their project critically and self-critically for an academic audience

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Teaching and learning is focused on the dual expectations on students that they are on one hand client-focused and committed to addressing practical needs in a real organisation, whilst on the other hand demonstrating a capacity for theorisation, reflective practice, critique and academic integrity.

After an initial period of whole-cohort briefings including a project showcase event, students work in small teams supported by a supervisor and occasional guest speakers.

Complementary support activities include occasional workshops, peer support and a module web site including facilitated online student resource discovery, self-help and mutual aid.

Student consultancy teams maintain regular contact with their client organisation, usually on their own premises. Complementary access to University resources including labs is provided according to need.

Students are expected to take on at least one individual specialist functional role within their team, linked where possible to their skill, personal, professional development aspirations. This will generally involve individual R and D in a well-defined area that complements other team members' roles and includes task-focused client-facing responsibilities for discrete elements within the team's overall package of deliverables.

Though student teams manage their own projects, an overall schedule is imposed via a module calendar to provide fair play and consistency, prescribing a number of mandatory milestones within an agile framework.

Throughout the module, the necessary flexibility is accompanied by a disciplined approach to design and implementation, to professional standards of communication and documentation, and to legal, social ethical and professional aspects of the intervention.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Analyse, model and communicate data science processes in a client organisation including their business, social and technical aspects and the opportunities for improving business/technology alignment

MO2 Define, plan, conduct, manage, review and document a complete consultancy project as part of a team, leading to sustainable improvement in data science processes in the client organisation

MO3 Apply reflective practice to professional, skill, knowledge development in a complex, changing socio-technical context, and communicate the outcomes effectively

MO4 Appraise critically and self-critically consultancy interventions in real organisations, taking into account a range of implications, eg legal, economic, strategic, social, ethical, sustainability issues, risk and uncertainty

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/FC138DC1-38D1-3072-2FDD-682B596E2B8D.html?lang=en-GB&login=1

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Each project team builds up an online portfolio through the whole of the module. This starts with an early contribution that builds engagement of students with their peers in project teams and highlights formatively the mission-critical requirements for success in the rest of the module.

Students maintain individual auditable contributions to the portfolio throughout. This enables individuals to demonstrate accountability to their team and supervisor, and employ formative feedback on a continuous basis. Assessment thereby takes into account the contributions made by individual students as well as team outputs and outcomes.

Following handover of client deliverables, student teams produce a final report for an academic audience as their last portfolio contribution, in which they are expected to review and reflect upon the client deliverables, including quality, impact on practice, future usage and methodology.

An end-of-year poster presentation encourages students to articulate their reflective project learning outcomes using non-traditional forms of communication and compare them with other project teams. Clients are invited to contribute to assessment including participation in the poster presentation.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)
Description: Portfolio (Wiki - 15-60 pages)
Weighting: 90 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: Yes
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Poster (First Sit)
Description: Poster Presentation
Weighting: 10 %
Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Poster (Resit)
Description: Poster presentation
Weighting: 10 %
Final assessment: No
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO3, MO4

Portfolio (Resit)
Description: Enhanced portfolio (individual) (Wiki - 15-60 pages)
Weighting: 90 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: Yes
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Data Science [Frenchay] BSc (Hons) 2025-26