

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD

Final Year Projects in Computing: Enhancing Academic Rigour

Key: e = Semester 1 Evaluation; FG = Semester 2 Focus group interview

STRAND OF FYP	Recommendation from students
Supervision strand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more guidance with report (E x5) • Better matching of student to supervisor – supervisor must have expertise in the programming language the student is working in (very strong theme from Focus Groups) • All supervisors should give students a similar level of support – reduce variability in student experience of supervision. (FG strong theme) • Students from different courses, e.g. IT in business or ITC should not be expected to do programming to the same level as pure Computing students (FG strong theme)
Software / programming strand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The module: Software Engineering in Semester 1 should be compulsory for all students as it helps a lot with the FYP. (FG theme) • The programming modules in first year should be a lot more demanding – they are much too basic at the moment. (FG theme) • All students in second year should have the opportunity to programme by themselves, not just as part of a group. (FG theme) • The lack of programming experience is particularly acute for students doing ICT or business Computing – this should be looked into. This also links to the workload for business Computing – seems extreme. (FG)
FYP lecture strand	<p>Need close link to software design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closer link to software design (E x4) • Start project at end of second year so can learn programming language in summer holidays (strong theme FG) <p>Weekly tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the scheduling of the weekly tasks so the lecture is given before the tasks have to be completed (E x14) <p>Be more explicit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More examples (E x4) • More details on literature review (E x6) • Be more explicit about the content of the report at the start of sem 1(FG) <p>Lectures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer lecture slots, 1.5 hours (E and FG) <p>Admin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project lists available earlier (summer of year 2) (Ex1 and FG) • Slides on Blackboard sooner (E x4)