COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Science, Innovation & Technology
Programme:	MSc Artificial Intelligence MSc Applied Computer Science (Conversion)
***FHEQ* Level:**	7
Course Title:	Professional Research Project
Course Code:	COMP 7500
Total Hours:	230 (Lev 7) (6 US Credits)
Timetabled Hours:	0
Supervised Learning Hours	10
Independent Learning Hours:	220
Credit	30 UK CATS credits 15 ECTS credits 6 US credits

Course Description:
This course provides students with the opportunity to undertake a substantial practical or research-based project that demonstrates advanced application of various computing domains. Students may choose either a practical project, focused on the design and implementation of a system or solution, or a research project, focused on empirical, experimental or theoretical investigation. Working independently under supervision, students define a problem or research question, review relevant literature, select appropriate methods, and deliver a significant piece of work that evidences Level 7 technical, analytical and professional competence.

Prerequisites:
Taught MSc courses relevant to programme of study.

Aims and Objectives:
The aim of this course is to enable students to integrate and apply advanced knowledge and skills through a substantial supervised project. Students will plan and execute either a practical or research-focused project, demonstrating methodological rigour, managing their work professionally, and communicating outcomes in a scholarly and reflective manner.

Programme Outcomes:
A2, A5, B2, B4, B5, C1, C3, C4, D1, D5.

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at: https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

1. Formulate and justify a significant related problem or research question, grounded in relevant literature (A5, B4);
2. Design an appropriate methodological approach, selecting suitable techniques, tools and evaluation strategies (B2, C1, C3);
3. Implement a practical system or conduct a rigorous empirical or theoretical investigation, and critically evaluate the outcomes (A2, C1, C3, C4);
4. Demonstrate professional project management, including planning, documentation, ethical compliance and reflective practice (B5, D5)
5. Communicate project aims, methods, findings and implications clearly and coherently in written and oral formats for specialist and non-specialist audiences (D1).

Indicative Content:

- Project scoping, feasibility analysis and ethical considerations
- Literature review and problem or research question definition
- Methodological design for practical or research-based projects
- Implementation of AI systems or execution of empirical/experimental studies
- Evaluation, analysis and interpretation of results
- Academic writing, technical documentation and presentation of findings
- Reflective practice and professional skills development

Assessment:
This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/

Teaching Methodology:
Students undertake independent supervised work supported by individual and/or small-group supervision sessions, research and project skills workshops, and guided independent study.

Indicative Text(s):

- Schwalbe, K. (2019). *Information technology project management.* Australia: Cengage.
- Thomas, G. (2023). *How to do your research project.* Los Angeles: SAGE.

Websites

- *Google Scholar*. Available at: https://scholar.google.com (Accessed: December 2026).
- *arXiv e-print archive*. Available at: https://arxiv.org (Accessed: December 2026).

See syllabus for complete reading list.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
Guided Learning Hours menu updated	October 2025	
Total Hours Updated	October 2025	