

Instructions for preparation of Mini-Project Reports

The results of your Mini-Project should be written in standard scientific paper format.

Title page: Authors name, Supervisor (main supervisor and lab supervisor if appropriate), Laboratory / Department address.

Abstract: 250 words (= 1 page Times Roman 12 pitch double-spaced).

Abbreviations: List key abbreviations used throughout the text. Remember that these should still be spelt out in full the first time that you use them, with the abbreviation in brackets.

Introduction: ~500-750 words (= 2-3 pages Times Roman 12 pitch double-spaced). This should provide a concise and fairly specific background to the project, and the hypothesis / questions specifically being addressed. It should NOT be a full literature review.

Materials and Methods: ~1500 words (= 6 pages Times Roman 12 pitched double-spaced). This should provide sufficient detail (or reference to sufficient detail) to allow another worker to carry out the same experiments. If you are referring to a published method, it is often useful to outline the protocol "in brief".

Results: ~1500 words ((= 6 pages Times Roman 12 pitched double-spaced). This should provide a concise account of the results obtained, in a logical order that hopefully tells a story. This will not necessarily be the order in which you carried out the experiments! Make maximum use of figures / tables - remember a picture often replaces a thousand words. A standard scientific paper in most journals will contain ~6 (maximum 8) figures or tables.

Discussion: ~1500 words ((= 6 pages Times Roman 12 pitched double-spaced). This should NOT be a repetition of the Results, but should critically evaluate the significance of your results in relation to published works, which should also be critically appraised. It will usually contain ideas of further work required to clarify your findings. This is a valuable inclusion in a project report where you may not have had sufficient time to complete the research as you might otherwise have hoped for.

Acknowledgements: This should acknowledge key assistance and funding sources.

References: Please provide these in a standard format (i.e. all the same throughout the list!), and include authors, year, title of paper, journal, volume, and first and last page numbers. You may use numbers throughout the text for your references, but please include the full reference in the reference list. 30-40 references should be adequate (~1250 words = 5 pages Times Roman 12 pitch double-spaced).

Figures and Table legends: Please make sure that sufficient detail is provided in the legend for the reader to understand the figure or table fully without reference to the text. Figure legends go at the bottom of the figure. Table legends go at the top of the table.

Total length: ~7000-7500 words (ABSOLUTE maximum 10,000 words). Please adhere to this as we ask independent reviewers to assess your project report and

provide feedback in the form of a standard referee report such as they might be asked to prepare for a manuscript submitted to a journal. This is a major commitment as we have 10 projects, i.e. 10 referee reports to obtain for you throughout the year.