

MODULE DESCRIPTION FORM

DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL AND AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

ME535 Group Project Abroad

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| Module Registrar: Dr Andrew McLaren andrew.mclaren@strath.ac.uk | Taught To (Course): Cohorts for whom module is optional | |
| Other Lecturers Involved: Supervisors at host institutions abroad | Credit Weighting: 50 (25 ECTS) | Semester: 1 |
| Optional module (restricted to students allocated a place on exchange, application deadline is January of 4 th year) | Academic Level: 5 | Suitable for Exchange: N |

Required prerequisites

Note: It is the responsibility of ALL students to ensure that they satisfy the prerequisite knowledge for this module BEFORE adding as part of curriculum selection. If unsure, please contact the Module Registrar or discuss with your Programme/Year Adviser of Studies.

Students must have passed all compulsory modules in years 1-4 of the MAE undergraduate programme. This will provide the general background knowledge to carry out the project. The project topic will be agreed with the host supervisor and further detailed research and study will be required to gain the required background knowledge to complete each specific project topic. This may involve developing new areas of knowledge, not previously covered in the Strathclyde curriculum.

Module Format and Delivery (HOURS i.e. 1 credit = 10hrs of study):

| Lecture | Tutorial | Laboratory | Groupwork | External | Online | Project | Assignments | Private Study | Total |
|---------|----------|------------|-----------|----------|--------|---------|-------------|---------------|-------|
| | | | 600 | | | | | | 600 |

Educational Aim

This module aims to give students an authentic experience of managing and contributing to a complex group project. This will include an opportunity to demonstrate mastery of the technical aspects of the project, in addition to demonstrating competence in project management, technical risk management and safety risk assessment. In addition, students will have the experience of working in an institution in a foreign country.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the module the student is expected to be able to:

- LO1 Develop and utilise the principles of project management and planning in a real project
- LO2 Be able to critically reflect on their role in a team and their interaction with team members
- LO3 Appreciate the importance of technical risk and health and safety management

Syllabus

Students may apply to spend the first semester of 5th year on exchange at one of our international partners. Students who are allocated a place abroad will complete this group project full time as their entire first semester curriculum. The project contains all the essential elements of the regular 5th year MEng Group Project, with the added element of taking the project abroad. Topics and supervisors at the host institution will be arranged by the students in consultation with the module registrar. During the first two weeks of the project, each group will write a statement of purpose detailing the

deliverables and schedule for the project. This will be agreed with the supervisor, who will take on the role of client. The statement of purpose will form a contract between the group and the client.

Students will carry out the project and will deliver an interim report to the assessment team at Strathclyde by 31st October. The group will produce a final technical report in consultation with the supervisor at the host institution. In addition, each group will produce a short showcase video and an archive of supporting documentation. The report, video and archive should be uploaded to the module MyPlace page by the start of Consolidation and Development Week. On return, each group will be assessed on the extent to which they have met the deliverables set out in the contract, as well as on the quality of reflection on the group process and project management experience. This will be assessed by a one-hour group presentation/discussion/oral exam with Strathclyde staff and will be scheduled during the semester 2 Consolidation and Development Week in January. Students should ensure they plan to be present in person in Glasgow to participate in this group assessment session. The final assessment will include a contribution from the project supervisor at the host institution or company. Peer marking will be completed by each student at the end of the project.

Assessment of Learning Outcomes

Criteria

For each of the Module Learning Outcomes the following criteria will be used to make judgements on student learning:

LO1 Develop and utilise the principles of project management and planning in a real project

C1 Show an ability to develop a detailed project plan

C2 Be able to analyse the critical path of a project

C3 Understand project estimating and project control

LO2 Be able to critically reflect on their role in a team and their interaction with team members

C1 Critically analyse their contribution to the project

C2 Consider the interaction between team members

C3 Reflect of the influence of team structure on team effectiveness

LO3 Appreciate the importance of technical risk and health and safety management

C1 Understand the need for technical risk management

C2 Apply appropriate methods to support risk analysis

C3 Appreciate the role of uncertainty and modelling

C4 Appreciate the obligations of health and safety law

The standards set for each criterion per Module Learning Outcome to achieve a pass grade are indicated on the assessment sheet for all assessment.

Principles of Assessment and Feedback

(within Assessment and Feedback Policy at: <https://www.strath.ac.uk/professionalservices/staff/policies/academic/>)

The following principles have been addressed in the design of the assessment.

Deliver high quality feedback information that helps learners self-correct.

The assessment is by oral presentations and dialogue, which provides instant feedback on group performance in a two-way communication process.

Ensure that summative assessment has a positive impact on learning.

The summative assessment is through oral presentations, after which feedback/mark sheets are completed by each assessor. These are returned to each group within a week of the assessment. Groups are encouraged to discuss any issues with the assessors.

Give choice in the topic, method, criteria, weighting or timing of assessments.

Project deliverables and deadlines will be defined by the group through a statement of purpose. Progress at each oral presentation is assessed against these criteria. Each group will define the detailed work on their project in negotiation with the supervisor (client).

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| Assessment is by project work, reports and oral examinations, as follows: | |
| Interim report 31 October | 10% |
| Final report/presentation showcase video and archive, start of Consolidation Week in January | 70% |
| Supervisor mark, January | 20% |
| All learning outcomes are assessed by all assessments | |
| For this module, peer assessment will be applied to the group assignment (full module mark comprised of interim and final assessments). Students will evaluate their peers' contributions to the assignment using MyPlace. The students' grade will be determined by combining the staff grade for that assignment with the students' weighted contribution – determined from each member's evaluation of the student. | |

Coursework / Submissions deadlines:

Statement of purpose, within two weeks of arrival at host institution

Interim report 31 October.

Final report, showcase video and archive, start of Consolidation Week, January.

Presentation/oral exam in semester 2 Consolidation Week, January. All students must be present in-person for the assessment.

Resit Assessment Procedures:

A group that fails to meet the threshold level for a pass will be allowed to complete further work ^^ over the summer, submission prior to the start of the July/August resit diet. This will be assessed for the September Board of Examiners.

^^Students must contact the module Registrar for details as soon as results confirm that a resit is required.

PLEASE NOTE:

Students must gain a summative mark of 50% to pass the module. Students who fail the module at the first attempt will be re-examined during the August diet. This re-examination will consist of oral examinations. No marks from previous attempts will be transferred to new attempts.

Recommended Reading

*****Purchase recommended **Highly recommended reading *For reference**

No specific recommendations. (Students will be expected to research extensively in support of their project)

Additional Student Feedback

(Please specify details of when additional feedback will be provided)

Feedback is individually given to each group. Additional feedback is provided to each group after each assessment in the form of written feedback sheets. In addition, groups may discuss their feedback sheets with individual assessors.

Session: 2025/26

Approved:

Programme Lead / Director Signature: Dr G Houston-Scott

Date of Last Modifications: 11 August 2025

MODULE TIMETABLE

Module Code:**ME535**

Module Title:

Group Project Abroad

Brief Description of Assessment:

Statement of Purpose (SoP) two weeks after start of project.

Interim report by 31 October.

Final report, showcase video and archive by start of Consolidation and Development Week, January.

One hour assessment in Consolidation and Development Week, January.

Assessment Timing

Indicate on the table below the start/submission dates for each assignment/project and the timing of each exam/assessment.

Please note: Timings can and will change, this should only be used as a guide.

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|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Semester One | W&D Wk | WK1 | WK2 | WK3 | WK4 | WK5 | WK6 | WK7 | WK8 | WK9 | WK10 | WK11 | Exam Period |
| | Choose an item. | Course work Submit SoP | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Course work Submit Interim Report | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. | Choose an item. |

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