

## Guideline for the In-Between Semester Assignment

The lecture free time between the first and second semester is to be used for the goal oriented development of important project elements. The focus is on conducting a series of experimental inquiries and the related production of knowledge. This leads to an intensive examination and first structuring of the written thesis and the writing of selected written contents. The submission of the required deliverables before the beginning of the next semester is checked by the respective specialization. A discussion of the deliverables takes place with the personal mentor or the lecturer team. In the minor seminars, the results of the mid-semester assignment are taken into reference.

### 1. Investigation Series (Experiments)

Each student is required to conduct at least three experimental investigations. These experiments include, for example, developing and evaluating a series of technical prototypes, organising and conducting collaborative workshops on a specific topic area, conducting an interview or survey, or describing first-hand experiences in the context of the phenomenon under inquiry. The detailed procedure and set of methods used are to be agreed upon in advance with the personal mentor.

#### *Assignment*

Systematic planning of three experimental setups and execution of the experiments involving different persons and perspectives where possible. Visual-narrative documentation and evaluation of the research results.

#### *Delivery*

Submission of the documentations **one week before the start of the semester** on the MDE\_VIA file server.

### 2. Thesis Structure (Table of Contents)

Structuring the written thesis as early as possible helps to properly locate the first text fragments. This is a prerequisite for targeted support by mentors and minor lecturers during the practical project and thesis development.

#### *Assignment*

Preparation of the table of contents of the written thesis (max. three hierarchical levels).

#### *Delivery*

Submission of the table of contents until **one week before the start of the semester** on the MDE\_VIA file server (PDF file consisting of 1-3 A4 pages).

### 3. Thesis Chapter

Students are required to write a comprehensive chapter of their thesis as part of the in-between semester assignment (see Thesis Structure). For example an introductory chapter with the results of the thematic research from the first semester would be a suitable choice for this purpose.

*Assignment*

Writing a chapter of the written thesis. Quality and scope should represent a "finished" chapter.

*Delivery*

Submission of a thesis chapter until **one week before the start of the semester** on the MDE\_VIA file server (PDF file).

**4. Annotated References (Bibliography/Project Collection)**

It is important to have defined the "state of the art" of the chosen design and knowledge area at the beginning of the second semester. This includes, but is not limited to, determining the relevant body of literature and objects for the chosen topic.

*Assignment*

Preparation of an annotated bibliography list and an artefact/project collection. This will include at least 10 items each. For the personal annotations, the structure of the following "Sample Annotation" can be used as a guide: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/annotated-bibliography>

*Delivery*

Submission of both lists (literature/projects) as a PDF document to the MDE\_VIA file server by **one week before the start of the semester**.