

**INSTITUTE OF COGNITIVE SCIENCE
CARLETON UNIVERSITY**

**CGSC5908: M.COG.SC. RESEARCH PROJECT
INFORMATION**

Purpose:

As part of their degree requirement, students in the Project Stream of the Masters of Cognitive Science (M.Cog.Sc.) program are required to complete a 1.0 Credit Research Project. The purpose of the Project is to provide students with the opportunity to learn about an issue in some depth. The specific nature of the Project will be decided upon in consultation with the students' Research Supervisor (or Co-Supervisors).

What does a Research Project look like?

The nature of one Project may be quite different from another based on the discipline, the student's needs, and the projects that a particular supervisor may have going on at a particular time. For example, someone completing a Project with a focus on Philosophy might include reading articles examining philosophical methods as they apply to Cognitive Science and a more in-depth application of those methods to a topic of mutual interest to both the student and the supervisor (e.g., the nature of causal explanation in the Cognitive Sciences). A Project with a focus on Psychology may involve helping to develop, conduct, and analyze an empirical study with human participants (e.g., a study looking at the role of working memory load on the accuracy and speed of two-digit mental multiplication).

The role of the supervisor also varies across Projects. In some cases, students may meet with their supervisor on a very regular basis (e.g., every two weeks to discuss readings). In others, students may attend regular lab meetings and meet with the Project Supervisor less frequently. In all cases, the supervisor is offering guidance and the opportunity for students to learn about a topic in which she/he is an expert.

While Projects across students will differ, what they do have in common is that they all require a final written product.

What form does the final product take?

Again, there will be variability across Projects. The exact nature of the final product will be agreed upon by both the student and the Project Supervisor *in advance* (see form on next page). However, they will all require some written component. Some examples of final products include written papers, conference submissions, a manuscript submission, or a lab report.

The Second Reader

A Second Reader will be selected for each Project in consultation with the Project Supervisor. The role of the Second Reader is to read the final product (the written document) and, in consultation with the Project Supervisor, agree on a Final Grade. In addition, the Second Reader may offer to meet with the student to offer additional feedback or guidance. The Second Reader should be at "arm's length" from the student. This means that the Second Reader cannot be one of the students' co-supervisors.

Questions?

Questions regarding the Research Project should be addressed to the Graduate Supervisor of the Institute of Cognitive Science. Currently, this is Ida Toivonen at ida.toivonen@carleton.ca

