

Advice for students considering doing a project

You should only consider taking the project if you are committed to doing a substantial amount of probability/statistics in your final year and beyond (so that you intend to continue study in probability/statistics or wish to work as a statistician). You should have already obtained good grades in all your courses, shown a particular aptitude for probability and statistics and expect to do well in your final year.

It is NOT sensible to do a project to make up the number of units or avoid end of year examinations. A project is a substantial undertaking, which requires hard work, dedication, enthusiasm and the ability to work independently. It is not an easy option. Typically it will take up more of your time than two conventional one unit course.

The third year two unit project is not intended for MSci students since they will be undertaking a substantial project in year 4, which can be in the probability/statistics area.

Which project should you choose?

You need to consider:

- (i) The general area you would prefer - probability or statistics.
- (ii) The type of project you would like to do - theory, data analysis, simulation.

Note that projects often involve some computing/programming.

You may have ideas of your own. You should initially discuss your ideas with the project co-ordinator.

There will be one class per week for part of each semester. The earlier classes are intended to help you to decide on a suitable project.

What will a project involve?

This depends on the specific project. The educational aim of the project is to help you to learn how to work independently. Your supervisor will guide you in the general direction of the project, suggest ways to solve specific problems and comment on the draft of your project report. He/she will NOT tell you exactly what to do at every stage.

How do you register for the project?

You must see the project co-ordinator before registering for the project.

You must also turn up for classes and supervision sessions arranged with your supervisor; failure to do so may result in deregistration.

If you decide not to continue with the project you should inform the project co-ordinator immediately.