



Umeå University
**Department of
Computing Science**

Student Conference in Computing Science

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<http://www8.cs.umu.se/kurser/5DV144/HT14/>



Student Conference Course

- The course teaches writing a scientific paper (!) for a conference
- Main activities
 - Topic selection
 - Literature search and research
 - Scientific writing
 - Submission (here via EasyChair conference system)
 - Peer reviewing
 - (1) You give and receive comments from your peers
 - (2) Final paper reviewed by a program committee
 - Conference presentation and publication
- Papers and presentations in English



Course Organization

Deliverables

Topic selection

**Outline & annot.
bibliography**

Full paper

Final paper

Lectures

Course intro

Scientific writing

Presentation
techniques

Activity

Individual supervision

Peer review
groups

Writing
lab

Conference



Schedule

Deadlines are marked with **red background**.

TBD = To Be Determined.

Date	Time	Room	Event
Wed, Sep 3	13-14	MA146	Lecture: Organizational details; Course overview and deadlines;
Wed, Sep 10	12	Deliverable 1 due (topic selection).	
Wed, Sep 17	13-15	MA146	Lecture: Finding literature; Presenting scientific research--an introduction;
Wed, Oct 1	TBD TBD TBD TBD	N340 N340 N340 N340	Peer review group meeting TBD TBD TBD
Wed, Oct 8	12	Deliverable 2 due (outline plus annotated bibliography).	
Wed, Oct 29	TBD TBD TBD TBD	MA406 MA406 MA406 MA406	Peer review group meeting TBD TBD TBD
Wed, Nov 19	TBD TBD TBD TBD	MA406 MA406 MA406 MA406	Peer review group meeting TBD TBD TBD
Wed, Dec 3	12	Deliverable 3 due (full paper).	
Wed, Dec 17	13-15	MA146	Lecture: Notification of preliminary acceptance. Discussion of results and feedback. Requirements for final paper and presentation.
Mon, Jan 5	12	Deliverable 4 due (final revised paper).	
Wed, Jan 7		Notification of final acceptance.	
Wed, Jan 14	9-17	MA146	THE CONFERENCE



Notification After Deliverable 3

Accepted

- Submit final paper
- Appear in proceedings
- Present at conference

Not accepted

- Resubmit revised full paper
- No publication
- Presentation later
- Best grade 3

- Quality of the full paper
- Quality of the presentation
- Quality of deliverable 2 (outline + annot. bibl.)
- Handling of required changes
- Participation in group meetings (**obligatory**)



Expected Results

- Ability to formulate a research question
- Ability to identify relevant scientific literature
- Develop a scientific attitude
- Experience of the peer review system
- Ability to give constructive feedback to the work of others
- Ability to write a scientific report in English
- Development of presentation and oral presentation in English



The Topic Selection (1)

Choose any area in computer science (or Interaction and Design for TFE students) that you are familiar with.

Examples:

- AI
- Theoretical Computer Science
- Robotics
- Computer Graphics
- Databases
- HCI
- Mobile computing
- Computer architectures
- Programming languages
- Software engineering
- Data communication and networks
- Data security
- Multimedia systems
- Simulation
- Grid computing
- Numerical computing
- Computer vision



The Topic Selection (2)

- Formulate a NEW, CLEAR and SPECIFIC research question or hypothesis
- Describe a planned method to answer the question or test the hypothesis
- Questions to ask yourself:
 - Do I have the background required to write something **non-trivial**?
 - What is the new contribution?
 - Is it possible within the given time frame?
 - Are sufficient resources available?



The Topic Selection (3)

- Deliver a short document (about half a page) with the following headlines:
 - Title
 - The area
 - Research question or hypothesis
 - Suggested method
 - Brief description of what is new
 - A few references you expect to be relevant
 - Your background in this area
 - Reason why you selected the area (forget "I want to learn more about X")
- No specific formatting guidelines (Latex is mandatory for the remaining writing)



The Topic Selection (4)

- All topics require approval by us
 - to exclude too wide, poorly defined, or difficult topics
 - to make sure that you have the required background to write a non-trivial paper
- We might help out with suitable topics in case you have difficulties finding a topic on your own
- Topics can be changed after approval by us



Peer Review Groups

- **Peer Review Groups**

- One group for each research area
- 3–4 students in each group (acting as both authors and reviewers) + supervisor

- **3 Peer Review Group Meetings (obligatory)**

- Support you in writing your paper
- Receive feedback on your ongoing work
- Give feedback on others' ongoing work
- Discuss problems and ideas with your peers



Structure of a Peer Review Meeting

- **Preparation**

- Distribute your work-in-progress at latest 2 days before the meeting
- **Read your peers' work-in-progress** and make notes

- **Review of each participant's work** (~20 min.)

1. Author presents the work in current state
2. Questions for clarification
3. Author leaves the room
4. Criticism, comments, and suggestions (by everyone in turn)
5. Author enters room and moderator summarizes
6. Discussion continues



Guidelines for Peer Review Meetings

- The meetings are **confidential** and should not be discussed outside the group
- Constructive feedback
 - Motivate your positive or negative opinions
 - Focus on “the big picture”, not on spelling mistakes!
 - Can you as a reader understand and learn anything?
- Your supervisor acts as the moderator of the meeting and makes sure that the rules are obeyed



The Conference Peer Reviewing

1. Authors submit manuscripts (deliverable 3)
2. Editors or program committee chairs assign the manuscripts to established scientists for review
3. The experts
 - independently evaluate the manuscripts,
 - write reviews (aka referee reports), and
 - provide a recommendation
4. Editor / program committee evaluates the reviews and makes a final decision
5. In case of acceptance the author revises the manuscript and resubmits (deliverable 4)



Available Resources

- Course webpage
- Course textbook
- Peers
- Supervisors
- Physical/virtual libraries
- Example documents
- Springer's submission guidelines
- EasyChair conference system
- Templates
- Writing Lab (språkverkstan)

➔ *See course homepage for details*



Help from Your Supervisor

- Talk to us during **the peer review group meetings**
- Make an appointment if you need additional advice
- Use your and your supervisor's time efficiently
 - Prepare **specific questions**
 - Bring along a current version of your paper
 - Take notes and reflect on input
- Conducting the actual research is **your task**, not the supervisor's



What to do now !

- Start thinking about your topic selection
 - **Deadline for deliverable 1 is**
September 10, noon!!
- Get an EasyChair account
 - Your deliverables 2, 3, and 4 have to be submitted via

<https://easychair.org/account/signin.cgi?>

[key=15708733.iHMmlXgxIoV0GBGQ](https://easychair.org/account/signin.cgi?key=15708733.iHMmlXgxIoV0GBGQ)

submission page is

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=usccsf14>

GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN!!