# MSCC & MSCDM
# Research Methods, September 2011
# Group Task (20%)

A small college plans to offer a three month training programme to a group of about 50 students. The programme is for professionals who are already working. The nature of the programme and availability of the students dictate that the programme should be delivered in a flexible manner.

There are four modules on the programme and the college has employed four lecturers to teach these four modules. The lecturers have agreed to prepare lecture notes and video tutorials for their modules. This teaching material will be made available to the students using information and communication technologies (ICTs).

The lecturers have agreed to be available to interact with the students after class hours, one hour three times a week. The lecturers will use information and communication technologies (ICTs) and social media platforms to interact with the students. This interaction can be one to one with individual students or it can be collaborative interaction with groups of students.

Also, the students should be able to collaborate online for group discussions and to share their ideas.

You are required to present a full ICT & social media tools based solution for the above requirements.  Your solution must suggest appropriate mechanisms:

- to distribute notes & video lectures
- to make important and urgent announcements
- for lecturers to communicate  individually and in a collaborative manner with students
- for the students to interact and collaborate online

Please suggest appropriate hardware technologies, software solutions and social media tools to achieve above. You should be able to explain and defend your solutions.

Please prepare a fifteen minute presentation.

## How to approach this task:

If you read the problem description carefully, you will find a number of keywords and suggestions that you can use to search online to see:

- "how others are doing this"
- "are there similar projects / solutions out there"
- "have people done research on these issues and published papers & technical reports"
- "have people compared different solutions to evaluate their cost and effectiveness"
- "how others are employing ICT & social media tools to improve teacher-student communication and to offer flexible teaching"
- "how such problems & their solutions can be described using rich pictures and diagrams"
- " is there any evidence and / or research study that suggests that your solutions works in an effective manner"

This literature review is very important and it must be highlighted in your presentation. This literature review will help you to design and defend your solution. Please do highlight this literature review at the start of your presentation and provide a reference listing on few slides at the end.

**[20%]**

Another important aspect of this exercise is to see how you conduct the group work, that is, how you distribute and allocate sub tasks and then how you consolidate and present your solutions. Please do inform us in your presentation that how the group work was conducted.

**[20%]**

As this is a Masters level presentation, it is expected from you to make a presentation with original & viable solutions, containing rich pictures & diagrams and references to similar projects & solutions and to relevant research.

**[40%]**

As you will be presenting your solutions to a "client" you may be asked relevant questions. You may be asked to justify your solutions by comparing it with other similar solutions.

**[20%]**
**[Total: 100%]**