

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING
QUALITY ASSURANCE OF UNITS**

Report by Unit Co-ordinator

Unit code: ELE5ICD	Year: 2008	Campus: Bundoora
Unit coordinator: Jim Whittington		
Teaching staff: Dragan Stancic		

UNIT AIM:

The aim of the subject is to increase knowledge and understanding of modern integrated circuit design processes and development design skills pertinent to industry practice.

SECTION A: NUMERICAL INFORMATION

Number enrolled: 11

Number completing the QAU questionnaire: 10

Grade distribution : A: 3 B: 8 C: 0 D: 0 E: 0 N: 0 NS: 0

Other (Please list): none

(2007 results A: 7, B: 2, C: 3)

SECTION B: STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

(a) Please complete the following table (with previous year's results if available – only 6 survey responses in 2007 so no statistical analysis was generated)

Specific Responses to Questions:

Qa: the unit helped me develop as a team member :- 4.0

Qb: work in the unit helped me develop my analytic skills :- 4.1

Qc: Learning in this unit helped me develop my problem-solving-skills :- 4.2

Qd: I have developed my communication skills in this unit :- 3.6

Qe: this unit has helped me in tackling unfamiliar problems :- 4.1

Qf: the unit helped me to develop the capacity to plan my work :- 4.1

Qg: I improved my oral communication skills :- 3.4

Q1: the aims of the unit were made clear at the start :- 4.0

Q2 the teaching staff put a lot of time into commenting on my work :- 3.8

Q3: I was generally given enough time to understand the things I had to learn :- 3.7

Q4: the staff made a real effort to understand the difficulties I was having with my work :- 3.9

Q5: appropriate forms of assessment were used in this work :- 4.0

Q6: teaching staff gave me helpful feedback :- 4.1

Q7: the teaching staff were extremely good at explaining things :- 3.9
Q8: the workload was manageable :- 4.3
Q9: the teaching staff worked hard to make this unit interesting :- 3.9
Q10: I was able to access the learning resources :- 4.5
Q11: the teaching staff motivated me to do my best work in this unit :- 3.8
Q12: overall I am satisfied with this unit:- 3.9

(b) Summary of student comments on best aspects

Best aspects of the unit:

- Very practical
- Related to industry practice
- Extremely interesting
- Learning new area and supporting tools
- Teaching staff good at explaining problems

(c) Summary of student comments on needed improvements

Aspects of the unit that need improvement:

- More details and guidelines on required laboratory practical work
- More time to complete lab work
- More software tutorials – particularly for new tools
- Additional staffing in labs

SECTION C: UNIT COORDINATOR'S COMMENTS

(d) Last year's suggested improvements

1. Keep up to date and, where possible, provide additional design examples and address any issues with tool access.

(e) Unit coordinator's comments on the unit this year

This unit appears to be meeting its aims reasonably well. The unit results are good and the student feedback is generally positive to very positive. This is a highly technical and practical unit related to industry practice (a positive in the eyes of the students). It doesn't specifically teach communication skills (written or oral), which probably accounts for the lowest feedback scores being related to these items. Laboratory work and software tools is one area where the students have indicated possible room for improvement. The laboratory notes should be looked at to see if it is appropriate to include more detail. However, it should be noted that this is a masters level unit and, as such, students are expected to be fairly resourceful and have the ability to flesh out detail from basic instructions (as would be expected in industry). If appropriate, the timing of laboratory work tasks could be modified to allow more time for students to complete them, this would include both scheduled class time and in the students own time (of which masters students are expected to put in more than the scheduled class time). Most advanced software tools come with example tutorials, if not already done so these should be identified and the existence pointed out to students. Finally, while it would be desirable to include additional teaching staff in labs, there is insufficient funding to do so in classes of this size.

(f) Unit coordinator's suggestions for improvements next year

1. Review laboratory notes and include more detail where appropriate. Include additional references to tutorials on software tools where possible.
2. Review deadlines for the completion of laboratory tasks and adjust to provide students with more time finish the work outside scheduled class times, as appropriate.

Signed:

Date: 17 Sept 2008

(Unit Coordinator) Jim Whittington

SECTION D: COMMENTS BY HEAD OF SCHOOL OR NOMINEE

Signed

(Head of School)

Date