

Publishing your MSc ASE Project Submission

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As an alternative to submitting a mini-thesis on your MSc ASE project work as described in the ASE web pages, you may instead submit a scholarly paper to a journal, conference or workshop.

There are several advantages to doing this:

- Your work may be published and be accessible to the wider scientific community, giving you more recognition for what you've done;
- You won't have to write so much (but the quality will have to be very high);
- Co-authoring a paper with your supervisor will give you a much better understanding of research practice.

This timeline of events to do this are as follows.

1. Discuss this option with your supervisor *as early in the project as possible*. Your project may or not be suitable for publication. It's not a matter of your project being easy or hard, but whether it involves a publishable piece of research. If appropriate, you'll agree with your supervisor a journal/conference/symposium/workshop to target.
2. Make an application to the MSc ASE board to submit a paper rather than a mini-thesis. The key information to present is the length of the paper and details about where you plan to publish. This should be emailed to Mel Ó Cinnéide.
3. The MSc ASE board will decide if the proposed publication is acceptable. If it's a full paper for a prestigious conference like the International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE), the paper is all you need to submit. If it's a workshop paper, you will probably be asked to write a covering report that contains your paper and provides more material on your project (background work, experimental results, etc.).
4. If the conference submission deadline precedes the project deadline, you'll submit the paper to the conference and then submit it to UCD for the thesis deadline as well (you may improve it in the meantime if you wish). If the conference submission deadline comes after the project deadline, you still have to submit your paper to UCD for the normal project deadline.

Notes:

Several students on the MSc ASE from previous years published papers on their project work. Many more could have, but didn't have time after their project to write a paper, which was a pity. This is why we are providing this option.

Whether or not the paper gets accepted for publication will not affect your grade.

If you submit to a journal, there is no travel involved. If you submit to a conference/workshop and you get accepted, you'll be expected to present the paper there. Keep the issue of funding in mind. Your supervisor may or may not have some funds, or you or your workplace may be able to subvent you. Prefer a European conference if possible.

Questions?

Ask your supervisor -- they'll be in the best position to advise you.