Date: 1st October – 7th October

I believe the idea of an ePortfolio to store personal information and general thoughts is a great way to ensure we think deeply about ourselves while in third year, with several deadlines and stress levels.

There are aspects I particularly found interesting about the way the ePortfolio is managed and I found some aspects to be strange and unclear. The webpage allows us to create documents, upload them and organize them. It also allows us to choose whether we would like to share this with others or keep it private and personal.

Some aspects are not so clearly provided, such as the tab for 'CV', in which I assumed that a CV must be uploaded. In fact, it allows you to upload a cover letter instead but you have to fill in the different boxes for your CV. Also, it was not made clear where we are meant to write down our 'scrap book' notes of feedback about the weekly tasks and myself.

Personal reflection this week and taking into consideration by habits last year, has led me to believe that I must be better at my time management skills as I seemed to do many last minute coursework which I definitely do not want to do in my final year, since this will jeopardize my final degree classification. I am a week behind in doing the exercises for this course. I intend to catch up and use this as improving on my time management regarding all coursework and exam preparation, ensuring I start these well in advance so I feel less stressed.

Date: 8th October – 14th October

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| **Date** | **Urgency** | **Task and action needed** | **Date done** |
| 12/Oct/2012 | Very urgent | Dissertation Proposal | 12/Oct/2012 |
| 28/Nov/2013 | Very urgent | Literature Review |  |
| 11/Jan/2013 | Quite urgent | Methodology/Research Design |  |
| 26/Feb/2013 | Not very urgent | Empirical Findings |  |
| 26/Mar/2013 | Not very urgent | Final Dissertation |  |
| 1/April/2013 | Very urgent | Decide whether to graduate with BSc or carry on with MSc |  |
| 25/April/2013 | Very urgent | Send in applications for Graduate roles and start REVISING |  |

I chose to do the weekly task on Moodle for this week quite early, rather than waiting to attend the lecture on Wednesdays and then completing it. This is mainly because we have our Dissertation Proposal due in this week, which is making me a little nervous and confused at the same time. My main fear is the topic I choose to do my dissertation on, as I don’t want it to be too boring or something that makes me difficult to carry out research for. Also, I have been searching for people that can be my potential supervisors as I have heard that the grade of your dissertation is based on the supervisor you get. More specifically put, some supervisors (and they are the first markers too) are harsher at marking than others.

The task on Moodle and the reading from “how to win as a final year student’ made me realize that I had stopped what I used to do – making a to-do list. This is why I started making one again; in the hope I will abide by it and actually get work done by the deadline set. This is it:

Date: 15th October – 21st October

Last week, I submitted my dissertation proposal and this, again, was done last minute. In my defense, I didn’t really mind about the last minute working as it was only about a page long and the reason why it took so long, was because I wanted to make sure my topic was interesting to me and that I knew it will have some importance to those who read it. After so much thought, I finally based it on SAP. My question specifically was ‘What are the reasons behind why organizations fail to implement the SAP system successfully?’. I also added another question just incase the former one was not what my supervisor was looking for. This was ‘ How does the implementation of a SAP system (ERP System) provide efficiency and standardization within an organization?’. Both questions were interesting to me and I found it difficult to decide which question to implement, hence, I thought I’d leave this decision to my supervisor (I have uploaded my proposal to my Portfolio).

Following on from my thoughts, I decided to implement my concern and emailed Richard to ask if he knew someone that could supervise me and also had sufficient knowledge about my topic. Instead of waiting for someone to be assigned to me, I wanted someone that I could feel comfortable with as I knew this was one of the biggest projects of my life and I knew what I was aiming for – a 1st ☺ so I wanted someone that I could informally chat to and make sure they could tell me exactly what I was missing out to achieve my goal.

Date: 22nd October – 28th October

For my dissertation, I approached a few people (including Richard, Tom, and Kevin) to ask if they would supervise me. However I had no luck in this as they were all already supervising enough people, or they did not have enough knowledge about the SAP system, hence their feedback throughout the process would not be constructive enough. I guess I’ll just wait to be assigned a supervisor and I hope for the best.

I went for a hammam experience (Moroccan spa) that I booked as a birthday gift for a friend at university. As well as the experience, it helped me put my mind at ease and take a break from work. I have also just booked a study pod in the science library for a group coursework within my elective module. We are a week behind compared to other groups, and this is mainly because it has taken us so long to form a group and decide what our work will be based on. It is for the module ‘Organizational Change’ and our job is to choose an organization and lead a change process for them. Many of the people I haven’t worked with before, so I’m looking forward to this, to hopefully get to know some great people and produce one of the best pieces of work – since its our final year ☺

Date: 29th October – 4th November

Eid has just gone! The fasting month was one of the hardest (part of being a Muslim) since fasts opened at sunset, which was at 8ish in the evening. I guess I should prepare myself for next year, as they’ll be MUCH harder. I also had my first project management module coursework due, which was quite interesting to do, as we had to assess why a specific project failed. I hope I can score a 1st in this but if I don’t, I can’t blame anyone but myself. As I said before, I would complete coursework in advance so that I can send them to the lecturer and gain feedback, but this was not possible so I NEED to do this next time – no point in beating myself up about it when its too late ☹.

I had my meeting with my personal tutor on Monday, and it was a lot more helpful than I had first thought. We went through the aspects of uni that I had most difficulty with, and this is when I raised concerns about my lack of knowledge with using UCL library and online sources. I let her know that most of my sources for my coursework were from online websites and articles, and that I had to increase the validity of my resources used. She did tell me that some of the marks had been dedicated to sources used in the bibliography/references and that websites like Wikipedia were most detested. I told her I would heed her advice and try my best to use the material available in the library as much as possible, especially when doing my Literature Review.

Date: 5th November –11th November (Reading Week)

Yesterday (Sunday), we had our ‘organizational change’ (elective module) coursework due. Funny it was a weekend submission but there were some problems with Moodle so the deadline got extended – not complaining ☺. This gave my group a chance to improve our work. Like promised, we had completed our work in advance and booked a meeting with our lecturer (Peter) to get some feedback. This made sure he knew we were aiming for a first and gave us the necessary feedback to ensure we can reach our goal.

Date: 12th November –18th November

I have my FactSet final round today – eeek! And yay me for passing the previous stage. Thankfully, we don’t have testing to do again so I’m a little more relaxed than I would have been. However, we have a group exercise and two one-to-one interviews. The one I am freaking most about is the technical one (I always fail in that) mostly because the range of questions are so broad and I can never prepare enough.

I feel confident for the competency based questions because I have had SO much experience in those and failed interview feedback has told me that they tend to go pretty well. The thing that lets me down is the technical interviews, and testing (when I do have to do it). I have my first meeting with my dissertation supervisor so I aim to ask him all the questions that I need to know about the process, and let him know that I am aiming for a first so that it has been embedded and that future feedback is based on that ☺.

We also have the ITMB Mock interview, which I had attended last year so I dragged my friends to attend this year. I know it’s my chance to get proper feedback and also, a chance to network, since there are different employers that attend each year. Last year, my interview had gone so well, the lady had flagged my application to ensure I get to the next round.

Date: 26th November –2nd December

Ok so I have my final round Blackrock interview, and again, I am feeling so nervous about the technical one-to-one interview (I always fail in that). However, I have asked for help from SEO, although Blackrock is not part of their partners, I knew they’d still be able to help and advise on the sample questions that I should practice for.

At the same time, the Literature Review is due this week so I MUST complete it way before hand so that it does not have to be done last minute – my standard and quality of work last minute is so low and the only thing keeping me from leaving things last is that the disso is worth 2 modules – and this is what I keep reminding myself. My supervisor did meet us quite late compared to others so I maybe should let him know that he must be more prompt in the future so that it eases pressure off me.

The first coursework for this module is also due, which means time-management is key. Honestly speaking, I enjoy doing the coursework for this module as it is ALL about me and I naturally have so much to write about. It’s like researching my brain, as oppose to the internet or book ☺ yay!

Date: 10th December –16th December

I had my Project Management group coursework to do last week, we basically have divided the work equally and set deadline for ourselves, after which we book a meeting and review everyone’s work to give feedback. The final pieces after they have been corrected will be put in a final doc that is not to be touched as we don’t want too many copies of the final piece lying about. I had my second meeting with my tutor and supervisor. The tutor meeting was not too helpful as we ended having a social conversation as oppose to talking about things I had issues with (I didn’t really have any, I just wanted to get a move on with my work).

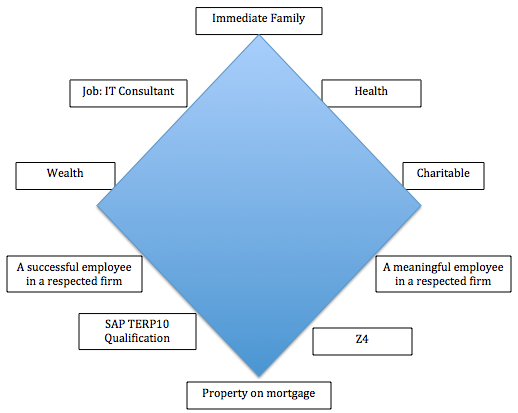
My meeting with my supervisor was so that he could go over my literature review so far before the main deadline and give me some feedback. Basically, he changed half the document and said many things belonged to the introduction as oppose to the Literature Review.

Date: 24th December –30th December

My Bungee Jump is booked this week, a birthday gift from my sister (who knows that I am scared of heights). She claims it’s to get rid of my fears and face my horrors. I am SO terrified and I think I won’t be able to go ahead with it when the time comes. I’ll probably tell my family and friends that are coming to watch to go instead of me!

It’s also Christmas week so feeling very relaxed and stress-free! Just enjoying the beautiful decorations in stores and on the streets. What I look forward to most is the boxing day and winter sales where I go to mess about more than trying to shop for clothes.

Date: 31st December –6th January



I thought I’d express how unexpectedly (and quickly too) my priorities have changed. Looking back, I am SHOCKED that being healthy was not important to me. I have started the gym a few months ago and have an aim to be in the centre of the healthy range on the BMI index. I also aim to hire a personal trainer if I do not see results within a few weeks and if I find it difficult to motivate myself.

Date: 7th January –13th January

We have our methodology due this Friday and my supervisor has left it VERY late to book our meeting to talk through what is involved in this. Therefore, he will extend the deadline for us till the next week as he realizes that this is not fair.

I also have my M&G interview to prepare for. My friend works there so I had the opportunity to put her name on their online application form. I have also asked her for tips on the telephone interview so I am currently preparing for that ☺. If that was not enough for this week, I have my ‘work experience’ coursework due for this month which means I MUST keep on top and plan my days wisely to ensure no time is wasted. What I have been doing is using the previous exercises and advice from the book. One that I implement the most is using the first 10% of time when I sit down to work. TRUST ME – this really works ☺

Date: 4th February–10th February

I had my next meeting with my supervisor to check over the Methodology and Literature Review corrections. He said that my Literature Review was MUCH better than before and he hardly made any corrections to my Methodology – cant help but feel a little proud – I guess hard work pays off after all ☺. He also explained the next steps and what was to be included in the Findings part. Finally, after a lot of requesting, he said that my work so far was well on its way to getting a first – HOWEVER, a lot of this was dependent on the next bit as it is worth a lot. So I guess the findings and analysis is the main bit and I cannot mess this bit up.

Date: 25th February–3rd March

I have my HP telephone interview this week and to be completely honest, I think I can pass it as long I do my research on the company. I normally do well in telephone interviews and it is normally the assessment centres that I fail in (which is worse because it is the last part and raises my hopes up for no reason). From now, and if I do pass this stage to gain a place at the assessment centre, I aim to use the advice and guidance learnt from this module which I assume will help me a lot.

I also have a massage booked in at the end of this week at Purity Spa (in Hilton Park Lane) which is a ‘kill two birds with one stone’ kind of thing – I booked it as a birthday gift for a friend but also, as a treat for me before the final dissertation and deadlines from final year start getting more heated. Also, I have started my IPL (laser hair removal) and have this at the end of the week. For my sake, I really hope this isn’t as painful as others have been describing.

Date: 25th March–31st March

I know I haven’t been writing on here for quite a couple of weeks but this is mainly because I forgot with all the deadlines and social events that have been looming. My birthday JUST passed (25th March) and it was sad when everyone was asking about my plans. I thought I should have it written on my forehead that I have the dissertation due in the next day – so quite frankly, I’ll be spending my birthday sitting in front of a computer and doing my final bits of work to perfect the most important project of my life!!

(28th March) A BIG YAYYYY and WOOHOOO for handing in my dissertation – MASSIVE weight lifted off my shoulders, and I must say, I was SO proud of my final piece. I was able to hand it in on time and felt bad that my best friend could not. However, now I can celebrate my Birthday stress free. I have a birthday dinner planned for tomorrow and I have all intentions to have the best night – since I am celebrating more than just my birthday!

Date: 1st April–7th April

I have my second HP telephone interview this week – I passed my first thank GOD! I do aim and really hope this is no false hope, as I desperately need a graduate job or else my Plan B goes into action and I shall not take out my application to carry on with my MSc. I have started to abide by my revision timetable so that revision for all my modules is not last minute – I cannot AFFORD to do badly in my exams!

Also, one more good news – I have lost 20kg since I first started to exercise and live healthily. Everyone I come into contact with start to notice and I feel very shy about the way I should react. I hope to carry one living healthily and it has become part of my routine to visit the gym a few times a week and eat healthy. I have been keeping on top of my work and have not forgotten to keep updating my checklist, which also has a priority list. I guess I should thank everyone that has introduced this course because it has helped me get through my final year so far and taught me many things about myself – good and bad! So…a BIG THANK YOU! And wish me luck in my future revision and exams!!!