Writing in ECS for projects and dissertations

Section	Suggested content	Notes (add your own)
Abstract	This is the way the world is This is what is wrong with the World Here is my idea/innovation/insight This is what I found	
Introduction	Provides the reader with an explanation of what the report will contain (overview and structure)	
Background	Explains the context of the work Literature review Review of any software to explain motivation and subsequently for evaluation	Papers still exist, so you refer to these in the present tense
Method	An account in the past tense of what you did to create the artefact. An account of any testing or user evaluation	Think software engineering. You should fully document the process using accepted methodologies Provides evidence of the development process.
Discussion	A step by step review of the achievements itemised in method An evaluation of the system as a whole in the context to the literature review and background research into software systems A reflective review of the process of working on the project Analysis on any evaluation and testing regime	Effectively the evaluation part of your project
Conclusion	Claims for achievements of the system as a whole Highlighting any key learnings Suggestion of any future works and developments	
References	List of all the citations from the text	
Bibliography	Any general sources which were used	E.g. general books on writing, surveys etc which you used but which you did not explicitly cite in the text
Appendices	Evidence of all the claims you are making in the text	

Marks are allocated across six categories

- **Management** – evidence it with a project plan, and discussion as to how you kept to plan. Can include a risk analysis
- **Technical approach** – evidence it with good software engineering, clear statement of methodology, evidence of any technical decisions you needed to make and justification.
- **Testing and Evaluation** – evidence that you took a rigorous approach to testing etc (mostly in method and discussion section)
- **Achievement** – aim to show how it has been implemented/ why it should be implemented
- **Writing** – well structured, free of errors, appropriate use of diagrams, tables etc. References cited and correct use of reference protocols
- **Understanding** – report shows that you understood what you are doing and your achievements