3012/GC25 Coursework 1 - Requirements capture for a location-based system to address the needs of people who have recently moved into a new area

**A) Group coursework**

You must do the following:

1. **Organise yourself** into groups of 3-4 students immediately.
   - Email w.seager@cs.ucl.ac.uk to confirm the members of your group, whether IM or CS student and a group name by **Friday 16th January at the latest**.

2. **Plan a requirements capture study** for a new location-based system which addresses the needs of people who have recently moved to a new area.

   Location-based systems are applications that make use of the user's physical location to provide an enhanced service or experience. Location information can be provided via user input or through positioning information (usually GPS). Examples include systems for navigation and mapping, finding business services or other locations of interest, ‘life blogging’, workforce tracking, location-based games and friend finders. Generally, LBSs provide services to users in-situ (e.g. via their mobile phone), although systems can also provide information and services and receive input via users’ computers in other contexts (e.g. at home or at work).

**The coursework**

Your task is to find out what problems people face when they move to live in a new area. For example, what kinds of negative experiences have they or their friends had when moving to a new area? What do they aspire to do but can’t?

The lecture on “Location-based systems” will put this coursework into a larger context and provide more detailed information on the different kinds of information and functionality that can be provided by location-based systems. The lecture on “Lived experience” will provide information on the methods you can use in this coursework.

In brief (among other things), the requirements capture should find out:

1. What kinds of problems do people encounter when they move to a new area?
2. What kinds of information do they have trouble accessing?
3. What is it that people new to an area try to do but currently can’t do?

**PLEASE NOTE**: these are only a few high-level questions; you need to work out what questions to ask.

You must attend the lab class on **22nd January at an assigned time slot**, where your plan will be reviewed and advice on data collection given.

Each group has a 15 min slot to present their plan to the group. Presentation slots will be assigned via email and published on the course website.

3. **Carry out the requirements capture …**
   - Carry out the requirements capture and analysis for the above
• You must document your observations (e.g. interviews, focus groups, questionnaires, diary studies) carefully (more about this in the lab class).
• You may also want to do background research (usability evaluations carried out into navigational assistants, papers and news reports on location-based services, more in the lectures on “Location-based systems”)

4. **Analyse your data** and summarise your findings. From your analysis, identify key elements required for a location-based system that addresses the needs of people who have recently moved to a new area.

   There will be a lab class on **2nd February** where each group has 10 minutes to present their initial findings from the requirements capture. An additional 5 minutes is reserved for each group to obtain feedback and discuss progress. Attendance is only required for the time slot (15 min) that has been assigned to your group (there will be a schedule).

5. **Prepare a presentation** of your key requirements and criteria to be handed in on **13th February at NOON** to the CS Departmental Office.

   This is followed by a presentation and feedback session on **23rd February**, which must be attended by all students.

**B) Individual Coursework**

Reflect on your personal experience with the group coursework. Please write 2 to 3 pages incorporating responses to the following questions.

   1. Which of the unmet needs you identified did you find the most surprising, and why?
   2. If you were able to do this requirements gathering exercise again, which methods would you adopt and why?

**References**

Provided in the lecture on “Location-based systems”, 15th January 10am, and the lecture on “Lived Experience”, 12th January 11am.