

IACS Master's programs

Thesis Proposal Guidelines

Students enrolled in the IACS master's programs – Computational Science and Engineering and Data Science – are able to complete a master's thesis project to satisfy the research experience degree requirement. Students who wish to choose this option must find a faculty advisor and submit a thesis proposal.

Timeline

IACS thesis proposals are due by **Friday, April 8, 2022** and should be submitted to Daniel Weinstock, Assistant Director of Graduate Studies in Applied Computation (dweinsto@seas.harvard.edu), together with a note from the faculty advisor indicating that they agree to oversee the project.

Proposal Contents

IACS master's thesis proposal should address each of the following topics:

1. Title
The title of your project.
2. Advisor
List the faculty member who will be supervising your project. Projects must be advised or co-advised by a faculty member or IACS lecturer.
3. Abstract
A one-paragraph summary of your project that succinctly describes the problem and the proposed methodology.
4. Motivation and Background
Discuss your reasons for choosing this project, especially mentioning any background, research interests, or future plans that may have influenced your decision.
5. Goals
Discuss the goals of the project and the expected outcomes.
6. Scientific Justification
Describe why this project is scientifically interesting and innovative.
7. Literature Review
Provide a short summary of other relevant work in the area this project addresses.
8. Methodology
Give an overview of the methodology, software and technologies you will use. Describe the computational elements and techniques to be used in the project. Projects should be mainly computational.