

Capstone Project Roadmap (2025-2026)

16th September 2025
Capstone Coordination Committee

For the BDBA, BCSAI and dual degree students

Contacts:

- BBADBA and PPLEDDBA:
 - rballester@faculty.ie.edu, aanahory@faculty.ie.edu
- BDBA and BCSAI:
 - ldyballa@faculty.ie.edu, rsanchezgarcia@faculty.ie.edu
- Academic director:
 - rpolding@faculty.ie.edu
- SciTech Operations team (administrative questions):
 - scitechoffice@ie.edu

The Capstone in a Nutshell

- A.k.a. TFG (*“Trabajo de final de grado”*) or *“Final Degree Project”*
- **12 credits**
- 375 hours’ worth of work
- Outcomes: submit an individual **thesis** and present it in a **defense**
- Great chance to start a career portfolio

Deliverables

All marked as Blackboard assignments
– keep an eye!

- Short proposal: October '25
 - Full proposal: November '25
 - First draft: January '26
 - Second draft: February '26
 - Full draft: March '26
 - Final submission: April '26
-

Choosing a Topic + Supervisor

1. See the **list** of proposed topics
 2. Decide on a **topic**
 3. Choose a **supervisor** and get in touch with them
 4. Once he or she agrees, submit your **short proposal**
- Make sure to do this well in advance
 - Changing the supervisor after November is **not allowed**

Ideas for Framing your Project

- **Prototype:** proof-of-concept for a software application
 - Evaluate its performance (user study, interviews, metrics...)
 - Compare it with existing market solutions
- **Venture:** solution centered around a business plan
 - Implement an MVP demonstrating the technology
- **Research:** quantitative investigation of a problem (social, business, analytical, etc.)
 - Includes building a model for analysis/forecast/intelligence

The Thesis Proposals

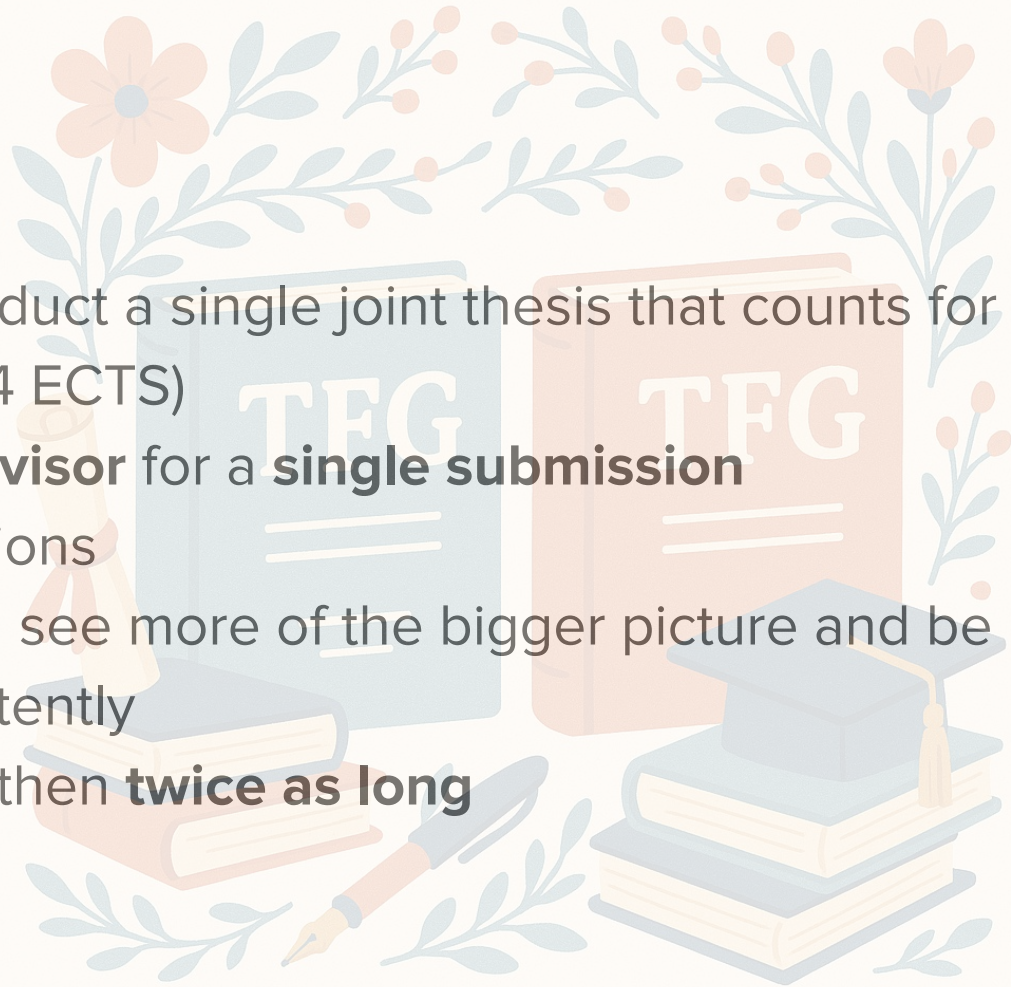
- **Short** proposal (October):
 - Title, type, and name of supervisor
- **Full** proposal (November):
 - 500-word summary of your idea, including:
 - Research question or objective
 - Execution plan with approximate calendar
 - If other students will work on the same project, highlight what part you will be doing
 - Desired measurable outcome or answer

How Technical Must the Capstone Be?

- Must include a **technology** or **algorithm**, or its **impact** on society
- Must develop **software** as part of the thesis. Examples:
 - An ML agent
 - A forecasting model to gain business insights
 - An EDA and visualization pipeline
 - A web application
 - An open-source library
 - ...
- A pitch or business plan is not enough!

Joint Thesis

- You have the option to conduct a single joint thesis that counts for both BBA and BDBA (for 24 ECTS)
- This means: a **single supervisor** for a **single submission**
 - Instead of two submissions
- Pro: a single supervisor will see more of the bigger picture and be able to advise more consistently
- Note: the thesis should be then **twice as long**



Semester Progress

- You are expected to hold **face-to-face 5 workshops** with your **supervisor**
- He or she is responsible to guide you at a high level
- You are responsible for **regularly reporting** your progress
 - Otherwise: grade can drop 10%

Rules for the Written Thesis

- Between **35 and 50** pages
 - Not counting bibliography and appendices
 - Between 70 and 100 for the dual thesis option
- **12 points**, Arial or Times New Roman, double spacing
- **APA** formatting mandatory (can be easily activated in Word)
- Use of **generative AI** is **forbidden**

Plagiarism Policy and Use of AI

- **Do not submit any text directly generated by AI**
- This includes any tool that uses LLMs (e.g. **Grammarly**)
- Fair uses of gen-AI:
 - Point you towards important references
 - Fix formatting in references so they follow APA style
 - Suggesting names for the document sections
 - Creating art for the defense presentation
- Violating this may result in an **investigation** for plagiarism (you may appeal)
- Consequence of plagiarism: **failing the first call**

The Defense

- Dates: May (first call) and June (second call)
- 15 minutes + 20 minutes Q&A
- Tips:
 - Make sure to rehearse it in front of others
 - Respect time limits
 - Dress well
 - Use your own words (don't read)
- Your supervisor will guide you further on how to present

Grading

- Supervisor:
 - Continuous work during the semester (10%)
 - Assessing the final written report (10%)
- One external reader:
 - Assessing the final written report (40%)
- Two panelists:
 - Final defense presentation (40%).

FAQs

Can I do my Capstone as a company intern?

Yes, provided that you find an IE professor that can supervise you.

My company wants the supervisor to sign an NDA, can this be done?

Yes, for such legal/administrative matters please write to scitechoffice@ie.edu.

What format should the thesis follow?

12 points, double-spaced, 35 to 50 pages. See the syllabus for further details; we will also share a template.

FAQs

Can multiple students work on the same project?

Each Capstone is an individual submission. You can collaborate with others on a broader project, but must properly attribute the work done by them (just as if it was an external reference) while highlighting what you actually did.

Can I change my Capstone topic?

Only before the first draft deliverable in January, and only if your supervisor agrees that the change is justified.

Can I propose my own Capstone topic?

Only as a variation of a topic proposed by one of our professors. The professors must explicitly approve whether your idea fits within the original intended scope.

Questions?