

# Capstone Project Roadmap (2025-2026)

16th September 2025  
Capstone Coordination Committee

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*For the DBA, BCSAI and dual degree students*

# Contacts:

- BBADBA and PPLEDBA:
  - [rballester@faculty.ie.edu](mailto:rballester@faculty.ie.edu), [aanahory@faculty.ie.edu](mailto:aanahory@faculty.ie.edu)
- BDBA and BCSAI:
  - [ldyballa@faculty.ie.edu](mailto:ldyballa@faculty.ie.edu), [rsanchezgarcia@faculty.ie.edu](mailto:rsanchezgarcia@faculty.ie.edu)
- Academic director:
  - [rpolding@faculty.ie.edu](mailto:rpolding@faculty.ie.edu)
- SciTech Operations team (administrative questions):
  - [scitechoffice@ie.edu](mailto: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
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# 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**
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- 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

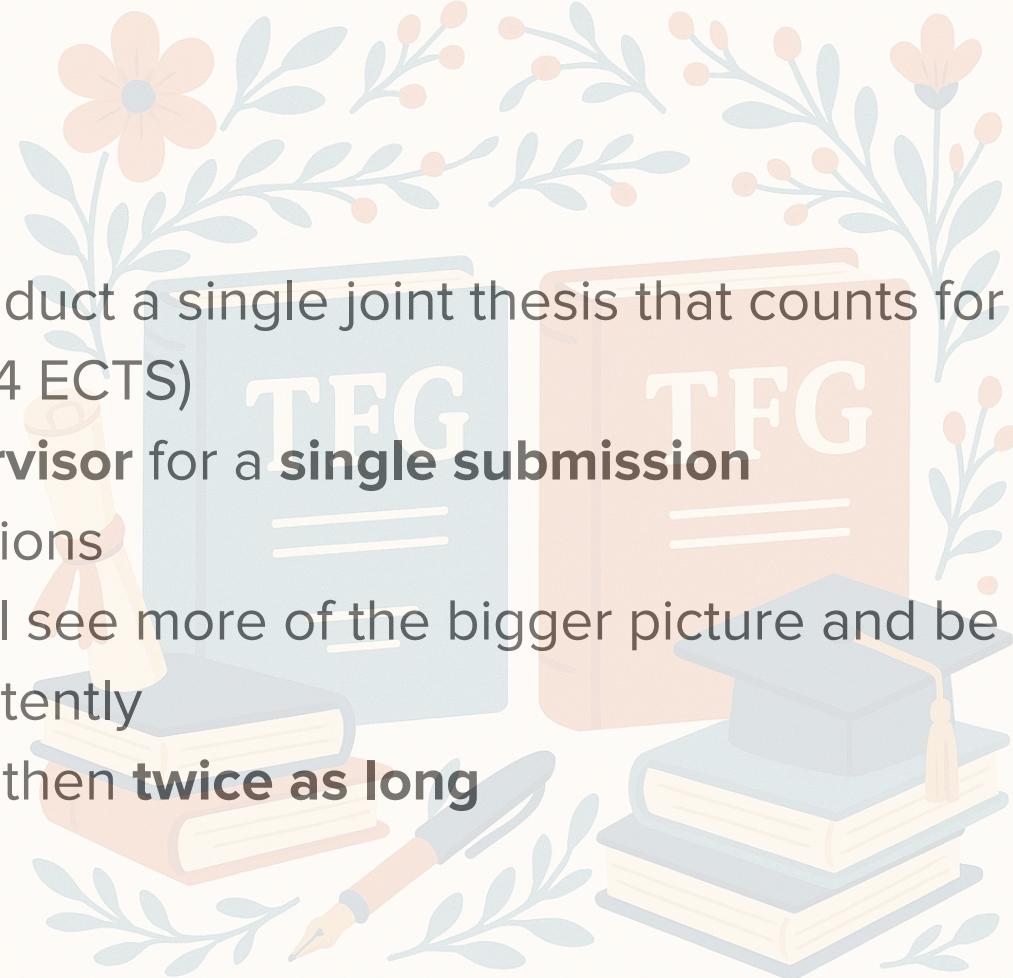
- **Short** proposal (October):
  - Title, type, and name of supervisor
- **Full** proposal (November):
  - 500-word summary of your idea, including:
    - Research question or objective
    - Execution plan with approximate calendar
      - If other students will work on the same project, highlight 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](mailto: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?