Contacts

- Rafa Ballester – rballester@faculty.ie.edu
- Alexandre Anahory – aanahory@faculty.ie.edu
- Robert Polding – rpolding@faculty.ie.edu

TLDR

- 12 Credits
- 375 hours of work
- Submit individual thesis and defense

Deliverables – All marked as blackboard assignments

- Short proposal (October '25) – Decide on topic
- Full proposal (November '25) – Finalise decision on topic
- First draft (January '26)
- Second draft (February '26)
- Final draft (March '26)
- Final submission (April '26)

Choosing topic + supervisor

1. See list of proposed topics
2. Decide on a topic
3. Choose a supervisor and get in touch with them
4. Submit short proposal once supervisor agrees
- CANNOT change the supervisor after November

Ideas for project framing

- Prototype: Proof-of-concept for a software app
  - Eval performance (user study, interviews, metrics..)
  - Compare it with existing market solutions
- Venture: Solution centered around a business plan
  - Implement MVP demonstration of tech
- Research: Quantitative investigation of a problem
  - Includes building a model for analysis/forecast/intel

Thesis proposals

- Short
  - Title, type, and name of supervisor
- Full proposal
  - 500 word summary of idea
    - Research question or objective
    - Execution plan with approx calendar
      - If other students will work on the same project, highlight what part you will be doing
    - Hypotheses (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
  - ML Agent
  - Forecasting model to gain business insights
  - EDA and visualisation pipeline
  - Web app
  - Open-source library
  - Etc.
- A pitch or business plan is not enough

_ _ _ _

Joint thesis inapplicable to BDBA, only for dual degrees

_ _ _ _

Semester progress

- 5 meetings with supervisor are expected
- Face to face, one before each deliverable
- They are responsible to guide you at a high level
- We are responsible for regularly reporting our progress
  - Grade can drop 10% if we don't

Workshop sessions – 80% Attendance obligatory

- 5 sessions delivered during the spring semester
- Attended by all students working on the same topic
- Themes
    - Structuring written thesis
    - Literature review
    - Models, methodology, analysis and reporting strategies
    - Preparing the defense

Rules for written thesis

- 35-50 pages (excluding bibliography and appendices)
- Font size 12, Arial or Times New Roman, double spacing
- APA Formatting
- No GenAI[1]

AI Policy

- No submission of any text directly generated by AI
    - Including Grammarly
- Fair uses of GenAI
    - Point towards important references
    - Fix formatting in references to follow APA style
    - Suggesting names for doc sections
    - Creating art for defense presentation
- Violating any of these will result in an investigation for plagiarism (may appeal)
    - Consequence of being found guilty: failing first call

---

[1] Can't use AI to do any direct writing, including code. R.I.P Vibecoders

The Defense

- Dates – May (First call) and June (Second call)
- 15 minutes + 20 mins Q&A max
- Not mentored by supervisor (Subject to change)
- Tips:
  - Rehears in front of others
  - Respect time limits
  - Dress well
  - Use own words (don't read)
- Supervisor will guide you further on how to present

Grading

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

Misc

- Can do Capstone as a company intern. You need an IE professor to supervise you. For any IP concerns talk to SciTech (scitechoffice@ie.edu
- Can collaborate with other students on a broader project, but must properly attribute the work done by them. Each student will defend their own thesis.
- Own capstone topic can be proposed, but only if it is a variation of the ones provided. Professors/Supervisors must approve if your idea fits within the initially intended scope.
- We own the IP of our own project.
- For code, put it all into a PDF.