FD/HD Thesis Policy

CSIS OFF CAMPUS THESIS

Background

The department strongly recommends that students consider collaborating with CSIS faculty members at the institute for their bachelor's or master's thesis. While students have the flexibility to select another institution or corporation for their thesis, the department adheres to the institute's regulations for off-campus thesis.

It is assumed that students opt for an off-campus thesis rather than working with on-campus faculties because they believe the off-campus work better aligns with their interests and of course, the work content meets the criteria for a "thesis".

Guidelines

Based on the above background, specific guidelines are established to uphold the essence of an off-campus thesis laid by BITS Pilani. For off-campus thesis, a CSIS student must select an appropriate CSIS faculty member as their on-campus mentor. Furthermore:

1. The topic must be mutually interesting to both on-campus and off-campus supervisors.

1. Regular progress updates must be provided to the off-campus supervisor through presentations. Failure to do so will be interpreted as a lack of progress from the student.
2. The thesis must address a set of research or engineering challenges that necessitate thorough investigation and subsequent resolution by the student. A robust implementation and evaluation of the solution are also anticipated. Refer to the Appendix for the TOC of a thesis.

1. The thesis content should be submission worthy to a reputable conference or journal (Scopus indexed), with the quality of the venue determined jointly by the off-campus and on-campus supervisors.

CSIS Faculty members acting as on-campus supervisors, should ensure that work proposal adheres to the guidelines mentioned above. Thesis evaluation by the on-campus supervisor should be based on points 2, 3, and 4.

Application Process:

1. Students must obtain initial approval from an on-campus CSIS faculty member.

1. Subsequently, the faculty member should email the Head of Department (HOD) detailing the proposal's merits and attaching the signed approval form. Direct emails from students will not be entertained.

1. Dual Degree Students: For a dual degree student, the on-campus faculty should be from CSIS department and the other primary department with which the student is enrolled.

Exceptional Circumstances:

Choosing a faculty member from another department as the main on-campus mentor of the thesis (which is obviously a core CSIS topic) is an exception. It requires approval from the CSIS HOD, as per the institute policy.

Such a case is strongly discouraged and generally NOT approved.

Appendix: What makes a good thesis (on campus or off campus)?

A good thesis typically demonstrates a student's ability to conduct independent study, critically analyze information, and communicate their findings effectively. Some key components of a good thesis include:

1. **Clear research (or engineering) question or objective:** The thesis should clearly state the research question or objective it aims to address.

1. **Literature review:** A thorough review of existing literature related to the research topic is essential to demonstrate an understanding of the existing knowledge in the field.

1. **Methodology:** A well-defined and appropriate evaluation methodology should be used to collect and analyze data, or existing results. Subsequenty, it should describe how the solution has been i

1. **Analysis and take-aways:** The thesis should present a clear interpretation of the results in relation to the research question.

1. **Structure and organization:** A well-organized and structured thesis with clear sections for introduction, literature review, methodology, results, discussion, and conclusion is important for readability and coherence.

1. **Critical thinking:** The thesis should showcase the student's ability to think critically, evaluate evidence, and draw meaningful conclusions.

1. **Contribution to the field:** A good thesis should aim to make a meaningful contribution to the field of study, whether through new insights, practical implementation (with clearly demonstrated benefits), or theoretical advancements.