

Choosing the Research Topic

Every learner in the upGrad-LJMU DS and ML program has an opportunity to explore prominent and innovative fields in different DS and ML domains. To help learners visualize problem statements in data science and machine learning, from a research perspective along with setting their aims and objectives in the right direction, we encourage every learner to read enough research papers and explore sources of literature to come up with a research question on their own. This will keep you clear-minded right from the start and will enable you to make better decisions around your project along with instilling the research perspective in your way of thinking.

But to help you with your topic selection process better, we are mapping you with an expert related to the area of interest that you would like to work in. We will collect your response for working in a specific area of interest and accordingly, in a few days time, assign you a thesis supervisor. You can take biweekly calls with the thesis supervisor and schedule calls to ask him/her questions or solve doubts related to the topic submission. Please note that calls should be scheduled at a mutually convenient time.

You can take help of the Supervisor in narrowing down a topic or a dataset you have in mind. You can also discuss a few ideas, resources with the thesis supervisor and then finalize your topic.

The thesis supervisor will work with you end to end, right from helping you do the topic selection, to helping you with the proper guidance for research papers, datasets and other technical queries. The thesis supervisor will also help you during your technical queries throughout the report and structuring your submissions like research proposal, interim report and the final thesis submission.

The topic submission process is the most crucial process of your research phase and to help you with that, we have listed out the following guidelines for you.

Important Points to Note

- Every learner by **February 22, 2023** 11:59 PM IST will positively mention the area of interest or the top 3 areas of interest that he/she wishes to work in.
- The upGrad-LJMU team will assign thesis supervisors to the learners based on the area of interest that the learner has chosen latest by **March 1, 2023**.
- The onus is on the learner to submit Research Interest form on the mentioned deadline. If a learner fails to do so it may lead to subsequent delay in assigning Thesis Supervisor. Moreover, there will be no change in Topic submission deadline.
- The supervisors are assigned based on their availability and their expertise to the learners.

- In most cases, the supervisor will be guiding the learners from end to end work. But in extreme cases where if learner is not willing to work with a thesis supervisor, upGrad-LJMU team will remap them to another supervisor keeping sure that the topic worked upon by the learner is not affected.
- The supervisors will assist the learners in doing their topic submission.
- **The deadline for Topic submission is March 29, 2023.**

Submission for Topic Selection

- It is a must for every learner to **submit 3 topics in order of preference** in the topic submission document and excel provided on the platform.
- Every learner needs to **submit a word file and an excel** attached provided on the upGrad portal in Research Topic Submission > Topic Submission Form > Choosing a Research Topic
- In the topic submission word doc, the learner needs to submit the 3 topics, their datasets and their description proposing them in a preference order. This is the list that the evaluators will consider for checking the submissions that the learner proposes to work on.
- In the topic submission excel, the learner needs to attach at least 5 reference papers, their descriptions, their dataset links. This will act as your literature review for that concerned topic.

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