Semester Project - Regulations

The study plans of the Computer Science and Communication Systems programs and the Data Science and Cyber Security Master’s programs include the following semester projects:

- **Project I (Bachelor level)**: a project carried out during the 5th or 6th semester, depending on the student’s choice, and worth 8 ECTS\(^1\) credits.

- **Project II (Master’s level)**: a project carried out during M1, M2, M3 or M4, depending on the student’s choice, worth 12 ECTS\(^1\) credits. Note that students in the Cyber Security Master’s program must do their project in the field of cyber security, and have the corresponding form signed by the professor who will supervise them and by the deputy head.

A project may be done in pairs: two students per project. This option is either offered by the labs or can be requested by the students.

Master’s students in Computer Science, Communication Systems, Data Science, and Cyber Security have an option to do an additional semester project, called an optional project, worth 8 ECTS\(^1\) credits.

The mandatory project and the optional project cannot be done in parallel in the same semester.

According to EPFL rules, ECTS credited semester projects cannot be remunerated.

The SSC and SIN sections solicit projects from the labs in April for the fall semester (5th semester, M1 and M3) and in October for the spring semester (6th semester, M2 and M4). Students are then notified by email that the list of projects on the labs’ websites is up to date and that they can proceed with selecting a project. They will also receive all relevant registration information.

**Procedure and length of projects**

- **Computer Science, Communication Systems, Data Science and Cyber Security**

  - **Project I (Bachelor level)** may be done during the 5th or 6th semester but must begin no later than the beginning of the 6th semester. The working hours are established together with the project supervisor(s).

  - **Project II (Master’s level)** may be done during M1, M2, M3 or M4, but it must begin no later than the beginning of the last semester of the Master’s Cycle. The working hours will be established together with the persons supervising the project. Students in the Cyber Security Master’s program may choose to carry out their semester project during their mandatory semester at ETHZ. In this case, a professor at ETHZ must supervise the project.

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\(^1\) One ECTS credit corresponds to approximately 30 hours of work, including homework and preparation for exams or presentations.
The duration of the semester project is 14 weeks. **The student must begin the project on the official start date of the beginning of the semester**, according to the academic calendar. No exceptions will be granted without the approval of the deputy head.

The student must submit a written report to the lab by the official dates listed on the following web pages: Bachelor // Master.

The project supervisor provides information about the format and the content of the report.

The submission of the report is followed by an oral defence organised by the lab.

**If the student does not meet the deadlines, it will be considered a failure (NA in the transcript).**

**Exchange students**

Students participating in exchange program during their 3rd year must complete Project I at their exchange university.

If Project II is carried out during the semester after returning to EPFL, the project must be organized from abroad.

The registration deadlines may be extended upon written request of the exchange student, who must justify the request.

**Conditions**

> **Computer Science, Communication Systems, Data Science and Cyber Security**

Project II must be passed in order for the student to proceed with the Master’s thesis. In case of failure, a second attempt in a different lab is possible, provided that the maximum duration of the Master's cycle has not yet been reached.

A student who has chosen a project on a particular topic and abandons it will not be allowed to retake the same project in the following semester.

**Changing projects during the semester is the exception.** The student must first send an email to the professor responsible for the project and the deputy head explaining the reasons for the request. If the request is justified, the section will give its approval.

A semester project may be abandoned during the semester for exceptional reasons and in agreement with professor in charge and the deputy head.

The abandonment of a project by the student after the exam withdrawal deadline will be considered a failure.
Projects proposed by labs not accredited by the section

If a student wishes to do a project with a lab that is not accredited by the Computer Science or Communication Systems sections, she/he must e-mail for the Bachelor programs: Cecilia Bigler (IN) or Martine Emery (SC) and for the Master programs: Antonella Veltro (IN/CYBER) or Carole Dauphin (SC/DS), the following information:

- Name of the lab
- Name of the professor responsible for the project
- Abstract (and project link if applicable)

After analysis of the request, the student will receive a reply by e-mail.

Registration on IS-Academia

Once you have received approval from the lab supervisor, and/or the section, if applicable, register for the project on IS-Academia during the official course registration period.

Extension of the project

An extension of time may be granted exceptionally in unforeseen circumstances, illness, or problems arising during the semester beyond the student's control. A medical certificate must be provided for illness.

A two-week extension may be granted by the deputy head at the request of the professor supervising the project, if justified by a valid reason.

*** the deadlines given by the sections must be respected ***

IC Quick Guide to Semester & Optional Projects [PDF]