Semester Project - Regulations

The study plans of the Bachelor's and Master's programs in Computer Science and Communication Systems Bachelor's and the Master's programs in Data Science and Cyber Security 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]. Note that students in the Cyber Security Master's program must conduct their project in the field of cyber security.

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 the possibility to complete an additional semester project, called an optional project, worth 8 ECTS[1].

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 Computer Science and Communication Systems 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 duration of the projects

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

- **Project I (Bachelor level)** can be done during the 5th or 6th semester but must begin no later than the beginning of the 6th semester. The working hours are determined together with the project supervisor(s).
- **Project II (Master's level)** can be carried out during M1, M2, M3 or M4, but must start no later than the beginning of the last semester of the Master's Cycle. The working hours will be determined together with the project supervisor(s). Students in the Cyber Security Master's program may choose to conduct their semester project during their mandatory semester at ETHZ. In this case, the project must be supervised by a professor on the ETHZ cyber security faculty list.

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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 section.

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

The project supervisor provides information about the format and the content of the report. General guidelines for the report can be found here.

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 an 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

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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 another 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 specific topic and abandons it cannot repeat 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 section 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 the professor in charge and the section.

Abandonment of a project by the student after the exam withdrawal deadline will be considered a failure.

Finding a project

Students are advised to look for their project at the end of the previous semester by browsing through the lists of supervisors / labs **accredited** by the Computer Science or Communication Systems section:

- Computer Science - IN ([Bachelor](#) / [Master](#))
- Communication Systems - SC ([Bachelor](#) / [Master](#))
- Data Science - DS ([Master](#))
- Cyber Security - Cyber ([Master](#))

Note: If a student wants to do a project with a lab that is **not accredited** by the Computer Science or Communication Systems section, they must email the Bachelor programs: [Cecilia Bigler](#) (IN) or [Martine Emery](#) (SC) and for the Master's programs: [Antonella Veltro](#) (IN), [Jasmine Locatelli](#) (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 reviewing the request, the student will receive a reply via email.

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

Exceptionally, an extension of time may be granted if unforeseen circumstances, illness, or problems arise during the semester beyond the student's control. In the case of illness, a medical certificate must be provided.

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

*** Deadlines set by sections must be met ***