

# EEMCS Master Thesis Project Proposal Guidelines

## Milestones, Deliverables and Phasing<sup>1</sup>.

The duration of the research assignment is ... weeks.

Project milestones and deliverables include:

**Precondition:** Topic approved.

**Deliverable D0:** A thesis proposal conforming to the [MasterThesisProposalGuidelines](#):

The goal is to ensure that both student and thesis advisor have the same ideas about the content and commitments (from both sides) regarding the project. Your thesis proposal should contain the following parts:

- a. synopsis of the project
- b. a short introduction into the subject
- c. discussion of the (initial) research question(s) that will be addressed,
- d. the (scientific/societal) motivation for the particular project
- e. an initial planning and staging of the project (what are the important milestones/when do you expect to reach them, when will you start/end etc.)
- f. a risk analysis, or those (external) events that could have an impact on your planning
- g. expected deliverables (what will result from the project, e.g., a prototype of a piece of software, an algorithm, an advice on how to treat a particular problem, a documented architecture, ...)
- h. contact details for the participants (student, supervisor, and when appropriate also the company supervisor)
- i. supervision details: generally an n-weekly schedule for meetings to discuss findings and progress that you've established together with your university thesis advisor (and company supervisor/s).
- j. (when appropriate) details regarding intellectual property and allowance (sometimes these are arranged in a separate legal contract)
- k. list of courses that still need to be followed and/or final exams that need to be taken (not so much as guard for entering the thesis phase but to document a potential impact on the planning)

Preferably the proposal is written in English so other students can read, and build on, your work. In addition, when written in English, parts (a) - (d) of your proposal can often be reused/extended for your final report. It is important to note that the details and planning are not cast in stone for the complete duration of the thesis project. If initial results show that there are good reasons to improve on the initial ideas, then all plans can be changed. In such a case, the proposal can be updated and serve as a track record that documents and motivates such changes.

**Milestone M1:** Research literature document approved by supervisor (week ..).

- **Deliverable D1:** Research assignment report.
- **Deliverable D2:** Plan for full thesis project.

**Milestone M2:** Presentation given at student colloquium (week ...).

- **Deliverable D3:** Electronic version of the slides.

**Milestone M3:** Grade given by supervisor (week ...).

All four deliverables D0-D3 should be handed in electronically in pdf to the thesis advisors.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: EEMCS / Software Engineering Research Group (SERG) Master Thesis Proposal Guidelines, 2007.