

For Companies: Student Term Projects and Bachelor's Theses

Information

Does your company have practical, real-world questions that would be suitable for student research? We would be delighted to receive your proposals. A successful partnership is based on the following conditions.

1. Conditions

In general, two students work together on every term project and/or bachelor's thesis.

Term Project

- Mid-September to mid-December
- Time budget: approx. 240 hours per student (spread out over the semester)

Bachelor's thesis

- Mid-February to mid-June
- Time budget: approx. 360 hours per student (spread out over the semester)

During this time, the students will also be compiling documentation for the school of Computer Science and its bachelor degree program. For partner companies, this means that approximately 50% of the student's available time can be used for actual project work (such as requirements analysis, design, and development).

2. Supervision

Each project is mentored by a supervisor. These are usually lecturers who teach in the bachelor degree program and have the appropriate methodological and technical competence to supervise work. The supervisor will hold a project meeting with the students in general once a week. The supervisor also assesses and grades the work once it is complete.

Partner companies must provide the students with a contact person to help them work out the details of the project, approve the intermediate results, and perform the final review of the deliverables. The contact person from your company should anticipate a workload of at least two full working days in total.

In the case of interactive systems, students may have to test them with end users. Your company, as a partner, will be asked to provide students with three to five end users for these usability tests. We estimate a workload of around two hours per person for these tests.

3. Expenses

In general, partner companies are responsible for covering the expenses that the students incur as a result of working on the project.

4. Provision of equipment, infrastructure, and licenses

If special infrastructure is required for the project (hardware or software that is not available at OST), the partner company must make this infrastructure available to OST for the duration of the project.

5. Provision of data and access rights

By submitting a project proposal, the partner company confirms that it will provide the students and other persons involved with access to all of the data, systems, and individuals required for successful completion of the project.

6. Rights and remuneration

Students may not be remunerated for the work they perform for their term projects or bachelor's theses. The students involved are equally entitled to the copyright to their work.

Students assign all usage rights to the work and artifacts produced as part of that work to OST, including but not limited to software, images, documents, audio files, and video files. OST grants all its members full usage rights to them.

Deviating from this, usage rights to certain artifacts can be partially or completely restricted by the program director. Deviating license agreements can be approved at the request of the supervisor, for example an open-source license in the case of software artifacts.

For work carried out with partners, the program director may assign the usage rights in part or in full to these partners, even exclusively. Corresponding agreements must be signed in written form by the partners and submitted to the program director via the supervisor before the proposal can be made available to students.

7. Confidentiality

OST cannot assume any general liability for non-disclosure by students and supervisors. Partners may agree on further special provisions with the supervisor, e.g., increased confidentiality (non-disclosure agreement). The partners acknowledge that the work is in essence public: Students must be able to report on their performance, omitting confidential details, in such a way that it is comprehensible to a specialist not involved in the work; Bachelor theses are presented to a general audience and published via the OST eprints portal: <https://eprints.ost.ch>

Agreements must be signed by all parties involved before work begins, but no later than during the first week of the project. For the student's protection, agreements may only be signed thereafter with the approval of the program director.

Non-compete clauses are generally not permitted for bachelor and student theses in the Computer Science bachelor degree program.

8. Publication

In general, the OST publishes, in PDF form, the reports written by the students shortly after successful completion of the projects (approximately three months after submission). In exceptional cases, delayed publication of the papers (publication after two years) can be requested. Please indicate this when submitting your project proposal.

9. Performance guarantee

Every year, we receive a large number of inquiries regarding possible research topics – more than we can handle. The topic must be approved by a lecturer, advertised to students, and supervised. Because the students are given a list of topics to choose from and because they carry out their project work largely independently, we cannot guarantee that any topic will be chosen, nor can we guarantee any quality of the results.

10. Submitting proposals

You can submit possible topics for student term projects and bachelor's theses at any time. Please send your proposals via email to the Computer Science Department Administrative Office:
claudia.furrer@ost.ch.

For a proposal to be considered, it must be submitted to us by the beginning of April for the fall semester, or by the beginning of October for the upcoming spring semester.

Please include the following information with your proposal:

- **Company and contact person**

Name and address of the partner company, perhaps also a short paragraph about the company's field of activity

Name, phone number and email address of the contact person at the partner company (for inquiries)

- **Topic**

A short title of the project or the topic

- **Scope of work and expected results**

A short description of the task assignment (0.5–1 page).

Expected results: qualitative and quantitative.

- **Constraints and infrastructure**

Time constraints (not before, not after)

Constraints in terms of infrastructure:

- Hardware, operating system
- Programming language (C++, Java, C#, etc.)

- Database, network, tools, etc.

In the case of special infrastructure:

- Can the partner company make this infrastructure available?

- **Other information**

E.g. requirements in terms of confidentiality and rights of use/exploitation of the software/documentation developed

- **Attachments (if applicable)**

Company profile, product descriptions