

## PROFESSIONAL PH.D. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

### Layout and Content of the Dissertation Proposal

This document provides general guidelines for the layout and content of the dissertation proposal. The guidelines may be modified to suit the project and the student's advisor may require additional material to be added to the proposal. The purpose of this document is to provide a starting point from which the final proposal can be developed.

#### Format

The dissertation proposal should be written using MS word or LaTeX. Please use the layout below and number each section accordingly.

#### Cover Page

The proposal cover page should include

- Title (up to 25 words) - The title can be a working title in that it can be changed at a later date. It should convey the essence of the proposed work.
- Student Name
- The statement Dissertation Proposal submitted in partial fulfillment of a Doctoral Degree in Computer Science.
- Date
- Names and room for signature of the student's advisor and advisory committee.

#### Content

The dissertation proposal should include the following sections:

1. **Introduction** - Gives the background to the work in general terms and the layout of the document.
2. **Dissertation Objective** - A statement, which is less than half a page long, specifying the objective of the work.
3. **Literature Review** - Reviews the pertinent literature with the objective of placing the research in the context of work that has been done before. Having read this section, the committee will have a clear understanding of how the dissertation will provide new insights and advance the state of the art. A dissertation proposal must clearly identify the uniqueness of the study.
4. **Approach** - Describes the theoretical, experimental or numerical approach that will be used in the study, including the background theory where necessary. The derivation of major equations can be added in an appendix if required by the student's supervisor.
5. **Tasks to be completed** - This should describe the expected series of tasks that will be undertaken during the study.
6. **Timetable** - Defines the time line for the completion of the work.
7. **References** - A list of references should be provided in an appropriate academic format such as Harvard or Author-Date.
8. **Figures and Tables** - Figures and tables may be placed in the document or at the end of the document. Each figure and table should be numbered in the order that it is referred to in the text and have a caption/heading that describes the content of the figure/table.