

# Researching Responsible Natural Language Processing

Session 20: Individual Exploratory Project

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## What is the Individual Exploratory Project?

- you will work on a small research project over one semester (60 credits, same as a standard MSc project);
- you can work with your first or second supervisor;
- or with any other member of academic staff;
- or you can work with a CDT partner (more about this below);
- this can be a pilot study for your PhD research, or something independent;
- the project needs to be self-contained, and feasible in one semester;
- it will enable you to practice many of the skills taught in this course.

# Timeline

15+17 Jan	Project pitches
27 Jan	Proposal submission deadline
3 Mar	Project progress video submission deadline
7, 12, 13, 19 Mar	Discussion of project progress videos
28 Mar	Report writing clinic
2 May	Report submission deadline

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Assessed items: proposal (30% of NLP-RR), progress video (30% of NLP-RR), report (100% of NLP-IEP).

## Next Steps

Homework for the time between now and start of semester 2:

- identify an IEP supervisor;
- meet with them to discuss a project topic;
- get ready to write a project proposal (that will be coursework 2);
- check Session 16 on how to do this :)
- specification: 2 pages in ACL format, excluding references;
- discuss the proposal with your supervisor;
- get ready to pitch it to the rest of your cohort in week 1.

## External Partners

You can also work with an external partner for your IEP:

- the CDT has a lot of partners in industry and the public sector;
- some of them have approached us and formulated ideas for student projects;
- Daniel Shorr (CDT business development executive) will circulate a list of partners and project ideas;
- get in touch with Daniel if you're interested in one of these ideas;
- your main supervisor would then be provided by the partner, but you will also need an academic supervisor;
- meet with them to discuss your project topic;
- write a project proposal and pitch it in the usual way;

If you want to work with an external partner, you should get started as soon as possible, as there may be paperwork (NDAs etc.)!

# The IEP Proposal

- research objectives: which problem will you solve?
- motivation: why is this interesting, novel, important?
- state of the art; background literature
- methods:
  - data sets you will use
  - your models or experimental techniques
  - work you will build on (e.g., existing code base)
  - evaluation
- potential risks; your plan B if things don't work
- timeline