new policy

Policy on preparation and defense of Startup Project as MSc Thesis

Policy category:
Education process

Policy Supervisor:
Dean of Education

Policy is applicable for:
Employees
Students who have chosen the Startup Project as a type of a Thesis
Expert Panel

SFA – State Final Attestation

scope

Policy establishes the procedure for preparation and defense of Startup Project as Thesis for educational programs at Skoltech, incl. Expert Panel composition and functions

requirements

Mandatory and recommended requirements for Thesis to be completed as Startup Project:

Mandatory:
- Submitted application for support to Skolkovo Foundation or similar
- Established Startup Project team

Recommended:
- Positive decision on application
- Registered legal entity
- Developed MVP or Prototype
- Patent application
- Financial support

Expert Panel

Expert Panel provides:
- expert support
- professional evaluation
- interim assessment of entrepreneurial Startup Projects

Composition - 10 members:
- chairman (academic)
- deputy chairman (external)
- min. 8 experts (>5 external)

thesis

The Startup Project Thesis consists of 2 parts
- 1 - is common to all Students-members of the Startup Project team, includes the development of the entrepreneurial part (~30%)
- 2 - demonstrates individual technical contribution of a related student to the specifics of the field of study / Educational program (~70%)

Thesis manuscript is subject to mandatory external and internal review

process

- preparation starts from the 1st year of Master's studies
- Students demonstrate the results of their work to the Expert Panel twice (in May of the 1st year, in January of the 2nd year of studies)

In May Expert Panel reviews submitted applications, in January – decides whether to recommend a Startup Project for defense at the SFA. In case of no admission, the thesis is prepared as per standard requirements

defense

The defense is carried out individually by each student and consists of

- presentation of an entrepreneurial component of the Startup Project and
- defense of the individual technical / scientific part of the Startup Project

Skoltech