

Pursuing PhD at EI Lab, IIT Guwahati

Stage 1: Coursework:

You will be assigned a few courses during first 6 months or 1 year of your PhD. You may be given 4 or 6 courses. The assigned courses depend upon your prior experience, your educational background, design expertise and skillset (of course, you will get PhD in Design). They will also uplift your research abilities, which is very important to pursue a research career. During your PhD you will take a few courses from the following list

- Design based project
- Design research methodology
- Research based project
- Interaction design
- HCI in Virtual Reality
- Design Semantics
- Ergonomics Research Techniques and many others

Stage 2: Comprehensive exam

This exam evaluates your understanding and learning of the coursework conducted at the initial stage of your PhD

Stage 3: State of the Art Seminar

This is a seminar conducted to present your literature study, research gap, research questions and study methodology. This is considered an important seminar where a doctoral committee (consisting of 3 other faculty members in addition to the supervisor) recommends or rejects the research gap and research question

Stage 4: Annual Progress Seminar

This is conducted every year of your PhD. The objective is to showcase the yearly progress to the doctoral committee. This is conducted every year until the synopsis (next stage) seminar.

Stage 5: Synopsis Seminar

Synopsis is, in a way, your final stage of the presentation where your experiments/studies are completed. You have evaluated them and presented a framework extracted from your research over the years. The doctoral committee approves the research of the candidate and further recommends to submit the PhD thesis.

Stage 6: PhD Thesis Submission

Post approval from the doctoral committee, the candidate is requested to submit the thesis within 3 months of the Synopsis Seminar (stage 5)

The PhD thesis further is sent to 2 external examiners (1 in India and 1 outside India) for review. The external examiners review the thesis to further approve/reject/modify the thesis based on recommendations. Finally, a viva-voce is conducted in the presence of Indian external examiner and awarded the PhD degree to the candidate.

In my experience, the PhD process takes an average 5 to 6 years to complete for full-time candidates. This requires consistent focus and persuasion to complete the PhD.

For part-time PhD students

Part-time PhD students are not preferred for the EI Labs. However, any candidate showcasing immense research potential, experience and expertise are always welcome to apply for PhD in the lab. Any part-time PhD student has to mandatorily attend first 6 months full-time in IIT Guwahati. They are institute norms and required to complete the course work suggested. The remaining duration of the PhD can be pursued outside the institute.