

# 2021 Final Year Project Definition Form

**Project Title:**

**A framework for effective enterprise data governance**

**Company details:**

Curro Holdings Ltd.  
38 Oxford St, Durbanville, Cape Town, 7550  
www.curro.co.za

**Company background:**

Curro's vision is to make independent school education accessible to more learners throughout southern Africa. Curro was established in 1998 and is the leading for-profit independent school provider in southern Africa. It develops, acquires and manages independent schools for learners from three months to Grade 12.

We believe the purpose of education is to empower every person with the opportunity to achieve their potential as individuals and members of society. We further believe that education is the cornerstone in the development of quality leaders and responsible citizens who will positively impact the economy, environment, and society.

In recent years, the volume of data being used within organizations has increased dramatically, playing a critical role in business operations. More specifically, data plays a pivotal role in both operational and strategic decision making and therefore it becomes increasingly more important for organizations to see data as an asset. Furthermore, the question of how to govern these data has become critical and thus the field of data governance has rapidly gained popularity and is considered to be an emerging subject in the Information Systems (IS) field.

Data governance, therefore, is defined as the process of managing the availability, usability, integrity and security of the data in enterprise systems, based on internal data standards and policies that also control data usage. The effective application of data governance, therefore, ensures consistent and trustworthy data that is not misused. This has become imperative as organizations rely more and more on data analytics to help guide effective decision-making and to optimize business operations.

A data governance framework refers to the process of defining a model, standards and policies for the effective management of enterprise data. Such a framework enables the organization to reach data availability, usability, integrity and security goals, by allowing them to make informed decisions about how to manage data, minimize cost and complexities and to mitigate data risks.

The focus of this project is to review the literature related to data governance frameworks and to subsequently design a data governance framework that is applicable to enterprises in the South African context. The student should identify various decision domains within the framework, each addressing its own key component in an enterprise's pursuit of data quality. Furthermore, the student will be afforded the opportunity to apply their designed framework on the data operations of Curro Holdings Ltd, whereby they will gain firsthand experience in the operation and maintenance of a large-scale data environment in a data-centered organization.

This problem holds significant value for Curro Holdings Ltd in terms of cost savings and improved resource utilisation. The student will be allowed the opportunity to work closely with a team of Industrial Engineers in practice, while gaining exposure to the innovative company culture at Curro. Furthermore, the student will learn invaluable skills in the realm of data management and governance, which will prove extremely helpful on their path towards a successful career.

**Industry mentorship:**

*Emile Strasheim*

*Industrial Engineer*

<b>Industry mentor contact details:</b>	<i>Emile Strasheim</i>	<a href="mailto:Emile.s@curro.co.za"><u>Emile.s@curro.co.za</u></a>	087 285 1691
<b>Project topic application process:</b>			
<i>Please email all applications for the topic to the relevant Curro mentor for the project.</i>			
<b>The main objectives of the project are:</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Research literature pertaining to data governance and data governance frameworks</li> <li>2. Design a data governance framework</li> <li>3. Apply the designed data governance framework to the data infrastructure at Curro Holdings Ltd</li> </ol>			
<b>Industrial Engineering skill (tools/processes/procedures) likely to be used in this project:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Systems thinking</li> <li>- Data quality management</li> <li>- Various techniques included in information systems</li> </ul>			