



Exposé guidelines for STUDENTS

Vienna
Doctoral
Schools

With your Exposé (and presentation at the FÖP) you should

- demonstrate that you carefully planned and re-thought your PhD project
- comprehensively summarise your PhD project to the Faculty Members
- allow the Faculty to judge quality and feasibility of your project, to give valuable and constructive input and finally approve your thesis endeavour

In case your project is part of a larger competitive extramurally-funded/ collaborative proposal of your PI, please give special focus to your individual contributions aimed to lead to your PhD degree.

Desirable Structure and Content of your Exposé

A) Title Page:

- (Working) Title of your Dissertation Project
- Your Name, student number and email address
- Selected Supervision Team: **minimum 2 experts** in your research topic (*Examples: 2 Supervisors (=Habil, TT Prof) or 1 supervisor + 1 co-mentor (=experienced postdoc, senior scientist in your group) as minimum*); *Set-up of bigger Thesis Advisory Committees (to get regular feedback beyond your direct supervision team) is highly recommended*
- Funding (salary and necessary consumables)

B) Main part: Within maximal 10 pages (Font size 11 pt.)

- Introduction:** i.e. short background, current status of research(knowledge):
What is your specific field of research? Where do you start from?
- Aims/ Main questions/ Significance of your planned research**
What do you want to reach/answer during your thesis? Why is this important?
- Workplan**
Which methods and experimental setups will you use to approach your specific aims/ questions? Which infrastructure/ collaboration partners do you need/ have at hand? Which methods are up and running in your lab, which will require establishment/ optimisation?
- Time plan**
When do you plan to do what and achieve your goals? Gantt Chart
- Contingency Plan / Risk Analysis**
Where do you see potential problems in sticking to your plan? Have you thought of solutions/ alternatives?

C) Cited References



Review guidelines for ADVISORY BOARD

Vienna
Doctoral
Schools

Your expert review is very valuable and **primarily thought to support the DSPL to reach its final decision whether a given project should be approved or rejected for a PhD study.**

- Therefore, **your review should pay special attention to the innovation, rational experimental design, feasibility, and potential bottlenecks of the presented individual PhD project.** Suggestions how to improve writing style, structure or content of the Exposé are highly welcome.

In case the project is part of a larger competitive extramurally-funded/ collaborative proposal of the PI, please give special focus to the contribution of the PhD candidate that should lead to a final independent thesis. (Quality of the project as a whole should be out of question)

- If there are some **concerns/ unclarities/ missing information, these should be explicitly mentioned.** Those will be addressed/ discussed during the FÖP and (hopefully) clarified so that the project can be finally approved.
- In order to allow them to properly reconsider your input, **your review will be forwarded to the respective students and their supervisors** prior to the FÖP (unless you explicitly opt out in message to executive manager).
- Therefore, **please return your review on time** within the given deadline.
- The Exposé is in most cases the first peer-reviewed scientific (mini-) proposal of the students.
Do not hold back any constructive criticism/feedback which is always helpful and appreciated, just **be watchful to your tone** (in order not to unintentionally shatter our young.