Exposé guidelines
for STUDENTS

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

a) demonstrate that you carefully planned and re-thought your PhD project
b) comprehensively summarise your PhD project to the Faculty Members
c) 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

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 Expose 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.