

Writing Your PhD Proposal in English

Objective

Writing the proposal for your PhD project is the first step into the research process. It is a crucial and fundamental step which is necessary not only for enrolling as a PhD candidate and for applying to funding institutions (e.g. political foundations) for scholarships, but also for the PhD project itself. The amount of time and work necessary for a good proposal is often underestimated. If your proposal is good, if the research problem is put well and adequately translated into a realistic research plan, a lot of the work necessary to solve it is already done.

The workshop will support PhD candidates in the first year of their doctorate in mastering this complex task. It will address the requirements of a good proposal, including problem statement, research question, hypothesis, state of the art, theoretical approach, research methods, outline and timeline.

Participants will be given the chance to present, discuss and revise their own proposals as well as to give and receive peer feedback.

The workshop is intended to facilitate proposal writing based on existing ideas for PhD projects, not to develop such ideas in the first place.

Description

The workshop will address the following issues:

- Adequately and precisely formulating the research problem or question
- Presenting and explaining a clear approach to solving/answering the problem/question
- Showing the relevance and importance of your problem/question
- Framing the problem/question with reference to the 'state of the art' of the discipline
- Contextualising the problem/question within theoretical and empirical literature
- Devising a realistic research plan and timeline for your PhD project
- Specificities of the English language in academia (as opposed to German)

Methodology

The workshop will take place on two days. Beforehand, participants should do their best to draft a proposal referring to the issues in the description above. These draft proposals should be sent to workshops@grade.uni-frankfurt.de by **January 6, 2019**.

On the first morning, participants will be introduced to the general purpose, structure and content of a PhD proposal, and the draft proposals will be discussed. In between sessions, participants will revise their proposals and resubmit them by **February 3, 2019**.

On the second morning, revised proposals will be presented and further discussed in the group. Participants will receive peer feedback as well as specific feedback by the trainer on the overall quality of the PhD proposal, including language and style.

Trainer



Dr. Felix Hauf

Goethe University, Frankfurt

• Research Associate, Department of Political Science, Goethe University Frankfurt

• Book: *Beyond Decent Work. The Cultural Political Economy of Labour Struggles in Indonesia*, Frankfurt /New York, 2016

Organizational Information

Language	English
Target group	First-year Doctoral Candidates from Humanities and Social Sciences
Date	Friday, 18 January 2019, 9:00 – 13:00 Friday, 15 February 2019, 9:00 – 13:00
Registration	For registration click here