"The workshop Get Finished helped me to approach the final phase of my dissertation with more confidence. I was particularly excited to have the opportunity to rehearse a preliminary draft of my disputation talk. The constructive feedback by the trainers and the other workshop participants was very helpful to me."

Sarah Mühlbacher
PhD Candidate
Social Sciences - Goethe University

Get Finished

Objective
After mountains of subject specific literature, numerous formulated and discarded hypotheses, after experiments or fieldwork, the doctoral thesis is finally complete. But the end of the road has not yet been reached: now follows the oral thesis examination. After completion of the thesis, personally defending it presents a new challenge for the doctoral candidate. Oral examinations are often associated with worries about blackouts. However, they quickly lose their horror if systematic preparation is started in good time. If the process is known, one has found one’s own presentation style and can also deal with difficult situations in discussions, one can go into the examination more relaxed and is then able to present one’s competencies in an optimal light.

Description
Participants have the opportunity to strategically engage with the upcoming oral examination. They develop individual strategies for preparing themselves and learn techniques so they can direct the discussion even at critical points.

- What is obligatory and what is freestyle? The expectations of an oral exam
- Selecting topics: What do I have to consider when choosing my subjects?
- All to plan? Self and time management in the preparatory phase
- The optimal presentation: How do I present myself and my work?
- The show must go on! Dealing with difficult situations in discussions
- Getting finished: My next steps

Methodology
The workshop will be tailored according to the specific requirements of the participants, based on an online survey prior to the workshop. It is practice-oriented and includes both input as well as activating and interactive parts.

In order to practice and apply the input of the workshop, the group will be divided into two groups at the end of the first day. These will then work separately on the second day. The prepared presentations (see conditions) will be held in the small groups and ’defended’ in a Q&A session. The participants will receive feedback in between and afterwards.

If the current pandemic situation allows it, the first evening ends with a dinner and a fireside chat about ”Career Options Inside and Outside the University”.

Conditions
- Participants are expected to be present on both days and also on the evening of the first day.
- All participants are expected to prepare a short 10-minute presentation for the workshop. The presentations will be held on the second day.

Organizational Information
Language / Format
English / in the Guesthouse of Goethe University

Target group
PhD Candidates in the final phase of their doctorate from all faculties

Date
Thursday, 15 December 2022, 9:00 – 17:00 & dinner and fireside chat (end approx. 21:00)
Friday, 16 December 2022, 9:00 – 16:00

Registration
For registration click here