Recommendations for Writing an Exposé

Language: The Exposé can be written in English or German.

1. Front page

- personal details: first name, surname, academic degree
- provisional title of dissertation thesis
- if applicable, details about cooperation with other scientists and institutions

2. Abstract of research project – What is my research project about in a nutshell?

Explain your project in general terms (not more than 15 lines). What is your main question and concern?

3. State of the art – What do I build my own research on?

Short and precise explanation of the state of the art and where and how you position yourself in the state of the art. It must refer directly to your project, and you must name the most important works by other scientists in your field of research. Recent research should be explained in such a way as to clearly outline the idea, the context, and new aspects of your own project.

4. Goals of research project - Which research gap do I want to fill?

On the background of the state of research, clearly explain the scientific goals of your research project and describe the special contribution of your project to general research.

5. Research program - How do I plan to achieve my research results?

The research programme is the nucleus of the exposé. It informs about structure and shape of your project, and thus about the expected quality of the dissertation project. Here, detailed information about the following aspects is expected:
1. epistemic interests and theoretical frame
2. sources used to obtain your results
3. methods used to obtain your results
4. working hypotheses / expected results

6. Schedule – What is my timeline?

By means of an overview or a table inform about the preliminary chronological order of your project and about how much time you will need for working out each single part of the project.

7. Bibliography – What sources do I use?

In the bibliography, list the works you referred to in your exposé as well as a choice of further relevant reading you would like to suggest in your own project.

8. Formal aspects

Your exposé should be between 8 to 10 pages. Please pay attention to a reader-friendly layout (font size pt. 12; line height 1.5; margin; paging).