

Instructions for an Exposé at Bauhaus Universität Weimar – recommended content and character

The aim of an exposé is to present the proposed Ph.D. project so that it may be evaluated in terms of its academic quality and feasibility. Moreover, it should show whether or not the project can be adequately supervised at the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism.

Academic Quality

1. **Connectivity:** It is required that projects connect to existing academic discourse. It must be presented to which of the general disciplinary discourses and specifically to which unresolved controversies or knowledge-gaps this project should contribute.
2. **Innovation:** The current state of the debate in the discourse identified in 1 should be illustrated. The candidate should demonstrate that they are familiar with all of the relevant academic sources and that this topic has not yet been addressed in the scope of a previous Ph.D. thesis. The desired acquisition of knowledge is to be clearly and convincingly developed and highlighted against the backdrop of the “state of the art”.
3. **Relevance:** The relevance of the proposed research question, which came about through the identification of a gap in knowledge, is to be substantiated with respect to other, possibly overarching issues. The relevance of the research query can be demonstrated through its importance in current academic, professional and social controversies.
4. **Transparency:** The formulation of an unambiguous, clear research query (motivated by the background of points 1-3) and the anticipation of possible results (hypotheses) including a discussion of methods should be explicitly and transparently developed in the exposé.

Feasibility:

1. It should be realistically possible to complete the proposed Ph.D. project within a time span not exceeding three years. This can be shown by providing a projected task and time schedule.
2. If the proposed Ph.D. project requires the candidate to conduct his/her own field research or experiments, the resulting time or methodological uncertainties that could arise are to be defined and assessed.
3. If the project can only be conducted using a stipend that has not yet been received, this should be clearly stated. If the candidate plans to work on their Ph.D. while also engaged in gainful employment, this needs to be reflected in the approximation of the task and time schedule.

Connection:

1. The proposed topic of the Ph.D. must fit to the faculty’s profile and fields of expertise. All of the subject areas at the faculty (represented by professorships) are to be viewed as technically connected. If the object of the Ph.D. (the topic of the thesis) touches upon multiple subject areas, then the integration with respect to content and methods must be depicted.
2. An interdisciplinary orientation is assumed for all interdisciplinary Ph.D. projects, meaning that the knowledge of the other relevant fields is to be adequately integrated.
3. The connection and advising by design-oriented chairs should occur in integration to scientific disciplines. The Ph.D. candidates are responsible for making contacts and agreements in this regard and this should be depicted in the exposé.
4. An internationally oriented Ph.D. project should be made possible through the co-advising from a subject-related professor from the relevant region or through an appropriate research design. The exposé should depict the available options in this case.

Formal Instructions:

1. Since the instructions above are not exhaustive, but instead reflect the essential experience of the Graduate Admissions Committee, it is advisable for candidates to consider further instructions, particularly in respect to the academic character of an exposé and the general rules for citations, etc. Many helpful guides regarding the creation of an exposé can be found both on the Internet and on the book market.
2. The length of the exposé should not exceed 10 pages. Illustrative and text redundancies should be avoided.
3. Content:
 - One page abstract (international journal standards);
 - 1. Chapter: research question, hypotheses, relevance;
 - 2. Chapter: current state of research;
 - 3. Chapter: research framework, research design, methods, task and time plan;
 - 4. Chapter: further remarks regarding the above mentioned quality criteria;
 - References