

## Requirements for Dissertation Proposals ("Exposés")

To prepare a dissertation research proposal is one of the requirements for earning a doctoral degree at the TUM – and very important for you yourself to frame and plan your dissertation project.

Check with your advisor(s) about specific expectations they might have, but social scientific dissertation proposals typically, in 8-12 single-spaced pages,

- specify the topic your research as well as your specific research question, noting why it is interesting to you and explaining why it should be interesting/important to others;
- briefly situate your research question in the most pertinent literature(s);
- sketch the approach you intend to take to answer your research question(s), i.e. lay out your research design in such a way that others (and you) gain a tentative but concrete sense of what you will need to do; and
- provide an overview of findings from preliminary research you might have done in developing your dissertation proposal.

In ideal cases, prospective doctoral candidates develop their dissertation proposal (usually in consultation with the prospective advisor(s)) before they formally become doctoral candidates; doctoral candidates must have a proposal, approved and considered viable by their advisors, within the first 12 months of getting onto the list of TUM-GOV doctoral candidates.

In preparing your proposal, please make sure it:

- is clearly labelled "Dissertation Proposal,"
- has a substantive title (ideally matching the title of your dissertation project as stated on your agreement with your supervisor(s)),
- states your name and your supervisor(s) names(s), and
- has a date on it;
- signed by you and your first (and if already appointed your second) supervisor to confirm that you are all on the same page about the goal and the contents of your dissertation research; and
- uploaded to DocGS (once it has all the above characteristics).