



Instructions for the preparation of an exposé for Bachelor's and Master's thesis

April 2024

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What is an exposé?

An exposé is a brief presentation of the idea or concept for a thesis. It presents the project or the procedure up to the finished final report. The aims and content of the work are explained, as well as the methodological approach and an overview of existing work and studies on the chosen topic.

Why an exposé?

An exposé is a good introduction to a thesis. It allows the student to analyse the chosen topic in detail before the actual start of work. In this way, important questions regarding the feasibility, relevance and delimitation of the thesis are clarified in advance. This means that a topic can be presented in a short version, making it easier to get a supervisor for a complex topic. Furthermore, it is easier not to lose sight of the central theme during the work process. Even if a good exposé takes time to prepare, it saves time in the end as problems and weak points are identified in advance and can therefore be anticipated.

What should the content of an exposé look like?

The contents of an exposé can be summarised using the following structure. The contents of the exposé are described on 3 to a maximum of 5 pages (any tables and graphics in appendices):

1. Problem definition and research interest
2. State of research
3. Research question
4. Methods and material access (or empiricism)
5. Work plan (incl. time schedule)
6. Bibliography

1 Problem definition and research interest

A short description of the chosen topic (as well as a description of why the topic has a scientific - research gap - or practical relevance) on 0.5 to a maximum of 1 page. Why does the student want to work on this particular topic or what is their motivation?

2 State of research

A brief presentation on 1 to a maximum of 1.5 pages of the most important theories, studies and research dealing with the topic. This initial selection of relevant literature should be found under point 6 in the bibliography.

3 Research question

The derivation of the objectives of the thesis and the most important concrete questions that the thesis intends to answer are defined in this paragraph on a maximum of 0.5 pages.

4 Methods and material access (or empiricism)

How the thesis intends to proceed with answering the questions defined in point 3 is described here on 1 to a maximum of 1.5 pages. The method and approach are described here, as well as the access to material (via cooperation partners of the work with e.g. companies, associations, etc.) and sources on which the work will be based. Any requirements and wishes of cooperation partners (e.g. blocking notices) are also mentioned here.

5 Work plan (incl. timetable)

A brief description of the work plan (incl. timetable) with the most important steps of the work on 0.5 to a maximum of 1 page. In addition to the work plan, a first rough outline of the work should already be presented.

6 Bibliography

A brief presentation of the sources cited under point 2 (correctly cited!) - without length specifications.

Concluding remarks

There are many inspiring examples of exposés for theses on the Internet. These also include many examples with in-depth descriptions of the contents of an exposé.