

Admission to the degree programme

Exposé: Guidelines on content

The exposé should provide an overview of your project at the present time. We recommend you follow the structure suggested by Ulrich von Alemann for project proposals:¹

- **Research Area:** Map out the area in which your research will be undertaken and state precisely where your research is sited.
- **State of research:** To make the need for your research clearer, you should outline the current state of research. The location of your own work should be apparent as well as the questions to which you can contribute an original, profounder contribution.
- **Questions:** Explain which questions you wish to answer in this research area, taking the current state of research into account.
- **Methods and theories:** Delineate your methodological approach as well as the theoretical concepts that inform your work. Please remember that the theoretical and methodological approaches taken by the Faculty of Sociology and the Department of History at Bielefeld University are mirrored by the BGHS [research areas](#).
- **Sources:** Provide an outline of possible sources, texts or data which you plan to collect or analyse.
- **Work schedule:** To provide an overview of how you plan to proceed with your dissertation as regards time and content, please add a time table.
- **Literature:** List important works on the issue in a bibliography.
- **Scientific character:** Please follow scientific practices (use footnotes, create a reasonable structure etc.)

It goes without saying that you should credit other scientists when you refer to or draw from their research in your project description. This also applies for your own works, such as your Master's Thesis.

¹ Ulrich von Alemann presents the structure of a project description with these seven core aspects. Alemann, Ulrich von (2012): Das Exposé: „Ja, mach nur einen Plan ...“. In: Franziska Günauer, Anne K. Krüger, Johannes Moes, Torsten Steidten, Claudia Koepernik (Hg.): GEW-Handbuch Promovieren mit Perspektive. Ein Ratgeber von und für DoktorandInnen. Bielefeld, S. 69-79.