

## PhD Thesis Proposal - Research Plan Instructions

**The PhD thesis plan** should

- 1) give a concise introduction to the scientific problem,
- 2) define the main aims of the PhD thesis,
- 3) describe the preliminary Results obtained so far, and
- 4) give a Research plan of future experiments for the next years.

Accordingly, the thesis proposal document should be structured roughly as follows:

### 1) Introduction (2 - 5 pages)

This should introduce to the scientific problem. Literature should be cited but an exhaustive literature review of the scientific background should be avoided. Towards the end, the introduction should lead up to a statement of the main aims of your PhD thesis.

### 2) Short statement of the Main aims (see above; < 1 page)

### 3) Results obtained so far (3 - 8 pages)

Briefly describe the main results, using Figures of your data for the most important experiments. Here, the experimental approaches should also be briefly introduced when describing each type of experiment. Cite literature if necessary, and briefly evaluate the outcome of the experiments obtained so far.

### 4) Research plan (1 -3 pages)

A description of the future experiments and their expected outcome is developed. Mention the main "deliverables"; i.e. at which time point do you expect that a critical experimental series will be finished; at which point in time could a given sub-project be finished (i.e. generation of a research manuscript).

### **Some General Rules-**

- The thesis proposal should not exceed 15 pages.
- The thesis proposal must be written by the applicant himself/herself, with feedback/corrections from the PhD thesis Director before the thesis proposal is handed-in. *Copy-pasting of text from previous documents is not allowed.* Make sure that a "red thread" is clearly visible through the text, and make the text as concise as possible.