



Basel, October 2016

Ph.D. in Applied Economics - Guidelines for research proposal

Objective of the proposal

The objective of the proposal is to demonstrate the student's aptitude, ability and skills necessary to conduct independent research that is publishable in international peer-reviewed scientific journals. The research proposal is one of the key inputs for the student evaluation based on which the decision about admittance to the second stage of the Ph.D. program is made.

Content

In the proposal, students describe their first planned research project. The proposed project must correspond to one independent research paper that has the potential for being publishable in international peer-reviewed scientific journals.

The expected length of the proposal is 12-15 pages. The proposal must describe in detail

- (a) the research question
- (b) its relevance for the scientific community as well as policy makers and/or practitioners
- (c) the current state of the literature
- (d) the contribution to the literature
- (e) the methodological challenges that need to be addressed
- (f) for empirical projects, the data that are planned to be used
- (g) the empirical methodology or theoretical framework proposed to answer the research question and how it helps to solve the methodological challenges

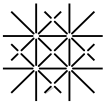
If already available, students may include first preliminary work such as descriptive empirical results or an outline of a theoretical framework. Depending on the amount of preliminary work, it can be included in the text or added as an appendix.

Evaluation criteria

The proposal will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Originality:

The proposed project must make an independent and substantive contribution to the scientific literature in the chosen field of research.



2. Scientific quality:

The methodology proposed to answer the research questions of the project must be appropriate, i.e. it must be suitable to solve the methodological challenges, and it must resemble the state-of-the-art in the chosen field of research.

3. Relevance:

In accordance with the aims of the Ph.D. Program in Applied Economics the proposed research must be relevant for both the scientific community, and policy makers or practitioners.

4. Feasibility:

The proposed research must be feasible. As a general guideline, it should be possible to finish the first research project within approximately one year.

5. Overall quality:

The output of the research project must have the potential for being publishable in international peer-reviewed scientific journals.

Submission

The proposal must be submitted as a single PDF to doctoralprogram-wwz@unibas.ch. The front page must contain the full name and matriculation number of the student. The submission deadline is 31 May 2017.