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Research Plan – Outline

Doctoral students compile a research plan outlining the goals, type of work and the responsibilities they have. The research plan is submitted **within the first year after registration**. It must contain the following points:

- research tasks
- external determining factors, content-oriented framework, time-frame
- scope of research work
- other responsibilities

The research plan is presented to the supervisor and then must be defended to an examination board (Research Plan Defense). Final approval is by the doctoral committee of the department.

The chapters listed below give a guideline but are non-binding. Their buildup and subchapters depend on the content of your research. Entire length of Research Plan without appendix should be approximately **10 pages** (no spiral binding). The research plan **has to be signed by each member of the examination board and the doctoral candidate**.

1 Introduction

Give background and motivation for your work. Explain basic knowledge needed. Show its scientific or economic need.

2 PhD thesis

Explain the main question you want to answer. Connect it with current state of research and show its importance in this context.

3 Goals

Show what you want to achieve. Explain your contribution to the subject.

4 Methodology

Specify methodology and techniques which will be used for your research: field work, laboratory work, modeling technique, interdisciplinary collaboration, etc.

5 Work performed

Summarize the work done since the start of the PhD. Show interim results.

6 Research time plan

Give a detailed time plan. Show which work has to be done and when it will be completed. Include other responsibilities or obligations.

7 Publication & conference presentation expected

Give an overview of subjects or steps of your work you intend to publish. Suggest some meetings or conferences you plan to attend in order to present your research.

8 Infrastructure or Software

Make a list of facilities or infrastructure, including software you will need to complete your research. Explain how it is or will be made available.

9 Reference & Literature

List papers and other publications you have already cited in this Research Plan or which you have collected for further reading.

10 Appendix

Add pictures, tables or other elements which are in direct connection with any of the previous chapters.