

How to write an Exposé for a final BA/MA thesis in international relations¹

The exposé with which you apply for a Bachelor or Master thesis supervision should give an overview of the following aspects of your project:

1. Problem formulation
What is your project about? What is the relevance of your problem to international relations? Why did you choose this topic?
2. Research question and hypothesis
What is the research question of your project? In what IR context can you locate your research question? Do you already have an idea on how to answer your question?
3. The current state of the art
What is the main literature for your thesis? What do you know about your topic? What is novel about your thesis project?
4. Type of thesis
What is the type of your thesis (e.g. analytical description, theory-driven empirical explanation)? See also the GSI Document “[Five types of scientific papers](#)” (in German).
5. Theory
On what theory/ies do you rely in your argument? Why did you choose this theory? What are alternative explanations?
6. Method
What method(s) do you plan to use to answer your research question? Why did you choose this (these) method(s)? What other alternatives could be considered? In case your project goes beyond the analysis of secondary literature: what sources, documents, or data do you plan to use? How do you plan to analyse these?

Your exposé should not exceed two pages.

¹ This document is based on the „Leitfragen“ by Edgar Grande (https://www.gsi.uni-muenchen.de/lehreinheiten/ls_vp/dokumente/leitfragen.pdf ; downloaded on 17.7.2019).