

# Guide for the Research Proposal (Summary for supervisors)

v20220824

## Timeframe and appointments

One possibility is that the proposal has to be written during a four-week full-time period. The student needs to make clear appointments with you so they will not experience any delay. Another possibility, for example when the student is following other courses in parallel, would be to modify the timeframe. So, the 6EC workload is spread over 6-8 weeks. The students must discuss the possibility for a modified timeframe with you. You will have four/five moments of contact, either in person or via email.

### During your first moment of contact:

- You agree on supervision;
- You agree on a deadline for the outline, first version and final version or public defence;
- You plan your second moment of contact;

### During the second moment of contact:

- You discuss the outline;
- You discuss the grading form;
- You plan your third moment of contact.

### During the third moment of contact:

- You discuss the first version;
- You decide with the student whether the student defences their research proposal in public or in a one-on-one conversation;
- You plan your fourth moment of contact;

### During the fourth moment of contact:

- The student presents the research proposal in 10 minutes and answers questions during the discussion afterwards, either in public or in a one-on-one conversation.

### During the fifth moment of contact (this could be combined with the fourth moment of contact):

- You discuss the grade and, if needed, further actions;
- You fill in and submit the testimonial.

## Commenting and grading

Commenting on the outline and first version of the research proposal can be done via a regular text editor. The most important comments by you (and possibly peers) should be included in a rebuttal that should be added to the final version.

Grading is done using an online form, for which you receive a link by email after the student has submitted the final version to SPIB. A PDF version of the form is available for reference in the study guide. As explained in the full guide, there is some room for flexibility when applying the grading form. Deviations should be discussed with the student beforehand, ideally during the second meeting. In case of a failing grade, please consult the full guide (4.5 Resit) and inform the course coordinator.

## Structure of the research proposal

The research proposal must have the following structure:

- A title page;
- A brief summary and graphical abstract;
- An introduction with:
  - At most 3 pages of theoretical framework;
  - At most 2 pages of discussion of a given research article;
- At most 5 pages of description of the proposed research with:
  - The objective, approach, innovation and impact of the research;
- A timetable of the project;
- A reference list;
- A rebuttal.

Please note that this document is a summary. You can find the complete information guide for the Research Proposal on the following webpage: <https://www.ru.nl/courseguides/science/master/master-biology/review-article-research-proposal-0/research-proposal/>.