

Online-Course

## Thesis Defense Training

<b>Target group</b>	PhD students in their final year
<b>Course description</b>	<p>In their thesis defense, doctoral students have to present their research to the board of examiners and then answer critical questions. This course is designed to prepare doctoral students optimally for this situation. In the first part of the course the participants get practical tips for their introductory presentation: how to structure the presentation, how to build up the central argument, what language to use, etc. The second part of the course deals with typical problems that occur during the discussion: How to respond to criticism and "killer-questions", how to deal with stage fright and black-outs, etc. In the third part, participants get the chance to give their presentation and to receive feedback from the group and from the trainer.</p>
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>The participants...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• give a convincing and well-structured presentation</li><li>• deal confidently with counter arguments and critical questions</li><li>• are well prepared and feel confident about their thesis defense</li></ul>
<b>Methods</b>	<p>All contents will be developed interactively, and they will be applied directly to the participants' topics. After the course participants can schedule an individual appointment with the trainer where they can discuss aspects of their thesis defense presentation (introduction, structure etc.).</p>
<b>Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• script including recommended further reading</li><li>• exercise sheets</li></ul>
<b>Group size</b>	Maximally 10 participants

## Program

### Day 1

09:00 – 09:30	Round of introductions
09:30 – 11:00	Basics of scientific argumentation
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 – 12:30	The logical structure of the thesis defense presentation
12:30 – 14:00	The opening of the thesis defense presentation
<i>Afternoon</i>	<i>Exercises</i>

### Day 2

09:00 – 09:45	Results from exercises from day 1
09:45 – 10:00	Rhetoric and presentation techniques
10:00 – 11:00	Mini-presentations from participants
11:00 – 11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Handling difficult questions
12:30 – 12:45	How to deal with nervousness
12:45 – 13:00	General tips for your preparation
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 – 17:00	Full presentations from one or two participants

### **After the course...**

Appointments via Doodle	Individual discussions with feedback on elements of the thesis defense presentation (e.g. the introduction, the argument structure)
-------------------------	---