ROSA LUXEMBURG STIFTUNG

The Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung PhD Fellowship at the Centre for Modern Indian Studies, University of Göttingen

Guidelines for the Submission of a PhD Proposal

1. Disciplinary requirements: Applicants must seek to pursue a PhD in one of the following fields of study: History, Political Science, Anthropology/ Sociology, Development Economics.

2. Applicants must identify one **Professor** from the Center of Modern Indian Studies whom they would like to supervise their thesis. See list of CeMIS professors at https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/staff/516626.html. Students may, if their project would benefit from it, also specify their interest in seeking mentorship from a second CeMIS Professor who will serve as a second supervisor or reader.

To identify a potential supervisor, applicants should carefully examine the research agenda of the Professor. This requires more than simply reading their websites. Consider their published research, the talks they have given, and the courses they teach as well, to ensure that you can be given close and sustained—i.e., successful—supervision. In other words, **the proposal MUST clearly fall within the areas of expertise and methodological approach(es) of the supervisor.**

3. The PhD proposal must comprise:
   - An introduction stating the specific research topic.
   - A description of the existing state of scholarship, demonstrating familiarity with problems and debates in the field and underlining how the proposed research intervenes in them in an original and important way.
   - A set of research questions and a description of research methodology—how will the proposed archival, field or quantitative research be used to answer your questions?
   - A proposed timeline and schedule of completion.
   - A select bibliography (1 page).

The entire proposal should be 8-10 pages long, including the one-page select bibliography.

While there is no *single* formula for a successful proposal, guidelines and proposal examples are widely available on the internet, and by looking at more than one, you will recognize the common elements, as summarized in the 5 points above. A few recommendations include:

- Guidelines from the German Academic Exchange Foundation (DAAD): https://static.daad.de/media/daad_de/pdfs_nicht_barrierefrei/der-daad/was-wir-tun/191612_howto_research_proposal.pdf

- From the academic information website Prospects.Ac.UK https://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/phd-study/how-to-write-a-successful-research-proposal

- SOAS Department of Development Studies Guidelines https://www.soas.ac.uk/development/programmes/phd/guidelines-for-writing-a-research-proposal.html

- Social Science Research Council, USA: "Some Candid Suggestions on the Art of Writing Proposals," By Profs. Adam Przeworski and Frank Salomon https://s3.amazonaws.com/ssrc-cdn2/art-of-writing-proposals-dsd-e-56b50ef814f12.pdf