

Supervision of the dissertation project:

Every fellow of the IRTG will be supervised by a team composed of his/her immediate lab supervisor and by two other project leader of the IRTG ("coaches"). The coaches will be selected by the graduate college fellow whereby the expertise ("know-how") of the project leader should be taken into account. The dissertation team will develop an Education&Supervision Plan (ESP). The ESP consists of

- topic of the dissertation project and a rough time frame for the first year
- evaluation criteria for the yearly progress report
- additional method courses to attend and qualifications to obtain
- a supervision plan clarifying the contact frequencies
- participation in teaching

Initial project plan:

Every fellow of the IRTG is required to draft at the beginning of his/her project an initial project plan of about one page where he/she describes the topic and the experimental approach of his project. The project plan needs to be submitted to the secretary and to the dissertation team within the first 6 months of the project. The dissertation team will discuss the project plan with the IRTG fellow and sign an approval form which is submitted to the coordinator. Aim of this procedure is to focus the work of the fellow as soon as possible on his project and to check the relevance and the feasibility of the project by a competent team to avoid time consuming delays at the beginning of the project.

Yearly progress reports:

Every year, the IRTG fellow writes a progress report about his/her project with a length of about 5 pages and submits it to his dissertation team. The dissertation team will discuss the project plan with the IRTG fellow in the frame work of a regular lab meeting progress report and sign an approval form which is submitted to the secretary. In addition, the ESP will be discussed and adjusted for the following year. Similar to the initial project plan, the progress reports serve to monitor and to correct if necessary the experimental approach during the project. The supervising team will take care that the dissertation project is carried out within 3 years if possible.

Yearly fall retreat ("Klausurtagung"):

In addition to the monitoring procedure as described above, the fellows of the IRTG will report at a yearly Meeting at an outside location about their progress. The yearly retreat will take place close to a national or international university or a research institute to facilitate scientific exchange. For the retreat, several external speakers from the neighboring university or research institute will be invited in order to obtain external input, initiate potential cooperations and to provide an atmosphere similar to a Minisymposium.