

About the Start colloquium

The main goal of an end colloquium is to present your research results as clearly as possible (and in an engaging way) to the audience. The goal of a start colloquium is different; here you present your research plans in such a way as to get the best possible feedback from the audience in order to improve the setup of your research. Therefore, the focus should much more be on the link between hypotheses, questions and methodology, and on the methodology itself. Specifically: can you falsify the hypotheses with your research questions, and can you properly address the research questions with your proposed setup?

When preparing your start colloquium you should ask yourself what kind of feedback you want from the audience. What do you consider the main weaknesses? What questions do you want to ask your peers (students) and "experts" (lecturers)? What knowledge/expertise do you miss? Spell these questions out on separate slides. A start colloquia can benefit from a relatively long discussion, because it is about improving the study with help from the audience and not about giving an impression of your potential final thesis results. It is advised to have a talk of maximally 15 minutes followed by up to 15 minutes discussion with the audience.