

Evaluation of an Essay Rotation

To:

Dr. Katja Thieltges

Graduate Training Centre of Neuroscience

Otfried-Müller-Str. 25-27

72076 Tübingen

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Dear colleague, please take a few minutes to fill in this form. On its second page you'll find some points that you might consider as a guideline for your evaluation. Please leave at least some comments addressing each point or feel free to submit a more elaborated review.

- ◆ Evaluator (name, institution): _____
- ◆ Name of student to be evaluated: _____
- ◆ Period of essay rotation: _____
- ◆ Title: _____

Please note that – in case of corrections and revisions that you might suggest – the **first version of the essay report** submitted by the student is to be evaluated. The student is required to send a PDF of this first version of the essay report directly to the GTC.

The Essay Rotation – general information

The essay rotation trains students in skills that commonly go untrained in many master programs.

The students are given a comparatively wide topic or research area to start with, which they need to narrow down themselves in order to focus on a concrete and specific question they are most interested in.

The six weeks of the essay rotation ensure that the students have ample time to read and think without pressure to produce concrete results or data. They are expected to search the literature and decide on their own what is relevant, reliable and meaningful. To succeed, students need to critically survey a large amount of material. Supervisors give guidance regarding starting points into the literature, regularly discuss their progress, and provide help should a student get stuck; in general, students enjoy a lot of freedom, however.

In their essay the students will practice how to compress the large amount of information available in the literature into a concise, well-structured and readable text, answering the self-defined question.

Evaluation criteria

- ◆ Did the student manage to focus on a suitably narrow, concrete and self-defined question or hypothesis to answer in the essay?

- ◆ Did the student explore the literature independently, ideally discovering relevant literature not known by their supervisor?

- ◆ Did the student succeed in condensing the vast literature into a suitably short essay, citing the relevant literature?

- ◆ Does the essay not only contain a summary of the existing literature but a critical evaluation of the literature, ideally with own ideas and suggestions for future work (e.g. experiments, simulations, method development)?

- ◆ Is the essay clearly structured and well written? Orthography and grammar ok? Consistent and correct use of the field-specific technical terms? Use of clear and appropriate figures to help the reader?

- ◆ Formal correctness: Scientific standards of citations and figure acknowledgements adhered to? Consistent reference style throughout?

- ◆ Additional comments:

Final Grade Report: _____

(1/1.3/1.7/2/2.3/2.7/3/3.3/3.7/4; Essay Rotation Grade: 80% Report, 20 % presentation of the project in the seminar).

Date

Signature Advisor