



## Program of the SFB 807 Graduate College **TRAM**

### 1. Mentoring Concept

Each graduate student has to choose **two** additional principle investigators who are (usually) members of the SFB807.

They will meet with the graduate student at least once a year to review the scientific progress and to decide, when the student has obtained enough scientific results to be able to graduate. A protocol of this meeting should be made and a copy will be given to the coordinator. An education agreement will be signed by the PI's, the student and a TRAM representative.

These three principle investigators are members of the **exam committee that takes place six month after the start of the PhD thesis.**

### 2. Qualifying Exam

To make sure that every student is well prepared to complete the proposed research, every student has to present his/her research project to a committee consisting of three principle investigators. It will take place **6 months** after start of PhD. The student should give a short talk of about **20 min** summarizing the significance and background of the proposed research/experiments and expected results. After this presentation, the committee will **ask questions** like in a PhD defense. A protocol of the exam must be written and also a **research proposal** (2 pages + references). Both will be archived by TRAM (a standard form will be provided by the coordinator.)

In case the student does not pass the exam, she or he will be given the opportunity to repeat the exam one month later. The need of taking additional courses will be discussed together with the coordinator.

Should the student fail a second time, she/he will have to leave the research training group and continue the PhD thesis without support by the SFB.

### 3. Guest Expert Seminar

The guest speaker seminar takes place every 4<sup>th</sup> week and will be organized by the students themselves. Every student within the SFB has the possibility to suggest a speaker. A **committee** will be elected by all graduate students, which makes the final selection: it consists of three graduate students and three PIs (they provide advice if needed). Committee members will be elected for a period of one year. Their function will be: the invitation of the speakers, their introduction during seminars and the organization of the question sessions. Being **host** for a specific speaker will be shared between **two graduate students**, for every host a **different pair** should be responsible. They also have to organize the "student-only session": a seminar room should be booked for two hours for scientific discussion without professors for all students.

### 4. Transferable Skills Program

Soft skills are important for a successful scientific career. The organization of such courses is provided by GRADE (<http://www.grade.uni-frankfurt.de>). Therefore the registration with GRADE is required for every TRAM member! Every student has to take one mandatory course per semester in her or his PhD period (two per year). In addition, everybody has the possibility to take voluntary courses (provided by GRADE). At the beginning of each PhD thesis a selection will be made together with the supervisor and the coordinator.

The focus will be:

1<sup>st</sup> year: The basics of scientific work (2.5 days as a block course)

2<sup>nd</sup> year: Advanced scientific presentation (Poster and Talk)

3<sup>rd</sup> year: Application training & Proposal writing

(see also [Training components TRAM students](#))

For **postdocs** it is suggested to take courses for “*Hochschuldidaktisches Basiszertifikat*” (optional) (provided by the Goethe University) and also advanced courses organized by GRADE.

## 5. Graduate College Conference

A meeting for all members of the graduate school will be held once a year (in cooperation with the yearly SFB 807 conference).

## 6. Colloquium (every 2nd week)

Every second week the research groups will present their research progress in the SFB seminar given by the graduate students and postdocs, who will present their own research. (every 4th week replaced by guest speaker seminar). **The attendance at the seminars is obligatory!**

## 7. Travel Funds

The graduate students can apply for funding of travel costs for a research visit in a foreign lab and also for trips to conferences. A short application and the “Antrag auf Genehmigung einer Dienstreise” (<http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/org/ltg/admin/pa/vordrucke/gendienstreise1.pdf>) should be submitted to the coordinator.

(see also [http://www.sfb807.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/projects/MGK/downloads/Reisekosten\\_Info.pdf](http://www.sfb807.de/fileadmin/user_upload/projects/MGK/downloads/Reisekosten_Info.pdf))