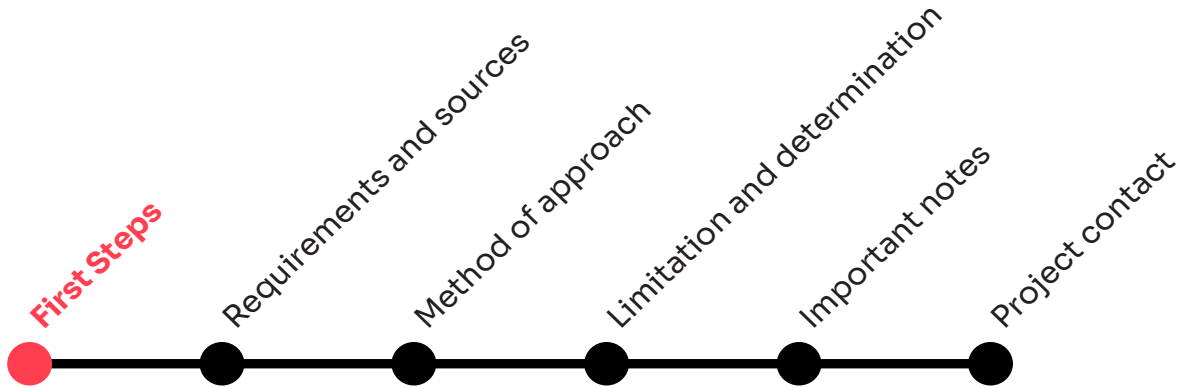


Stop Topic Selection

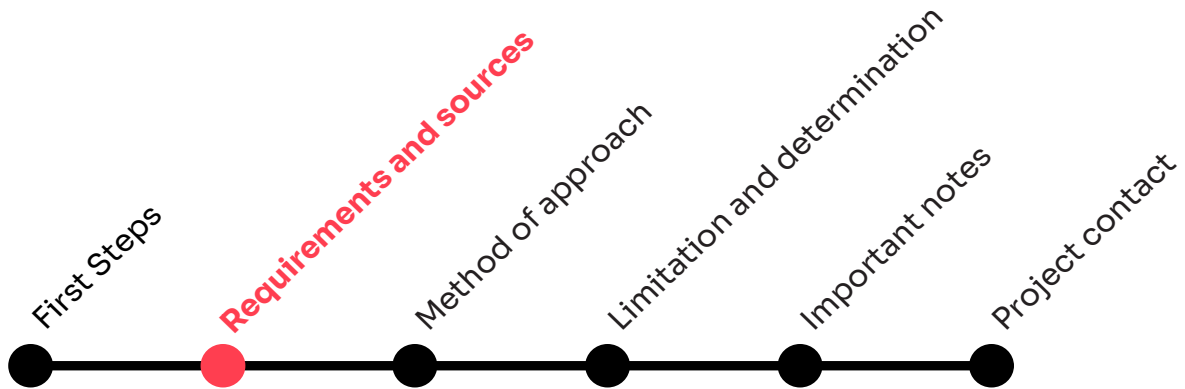
Finding a topic is key. A certain amount of orientation time should be allowed for, as topics need to grow and mature. A diffuse research question or unclear research area may likely lead to failure of the doctorate.

How do I find a topic for my doctorate?



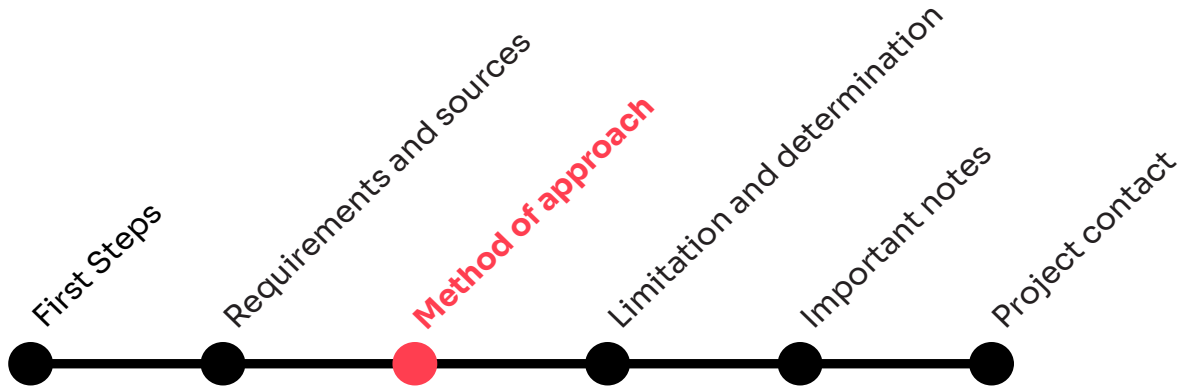
First Steps

- the supervisor often suggests a topic
- however, in principle, you are free to choose a topic based on your own interests
- a topic often arises from the research field of a project
- make use of prior knowledge and familiar problem areas
- **Our Tip:** initial thematic connections for a doctoral topic may come from previous final theses



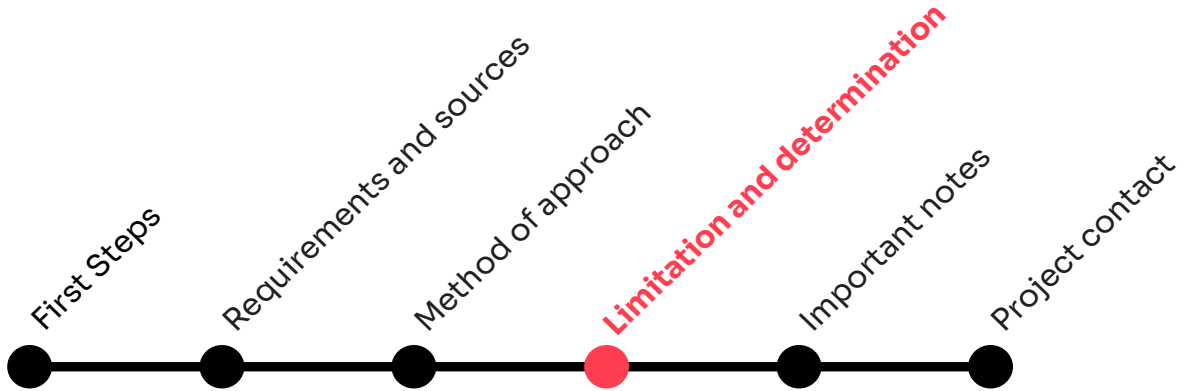
Requirements and sources

- Requirements for a doctoral thesis are:
 - a scientific approach
 - a sufficient degree of novelty
 - the ability to complete the topic within a given timeframe
 - the topic's suitability for the doctoral candidate
- Suitable sources for a doctoral topic are:
 - specialist publications that offer starting points for further research
 - conversations with individuals who are conducting research in this field



Method of approach

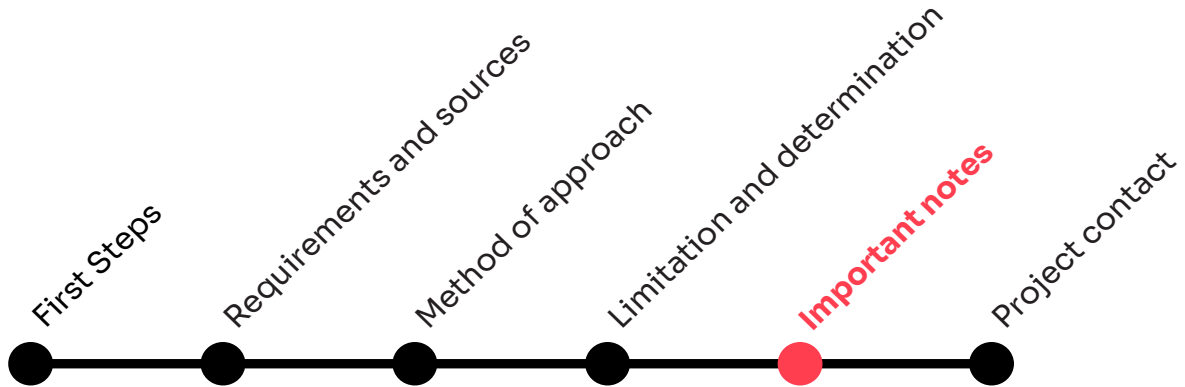
- Use prior knowledge:
 - focus on your own specialisms or areas of interest
 - build on topics previously worked on
- Involve people:
 - identify and potentially contact researchers or institutions working on the topic
- Research the topic:
 - this provides an overview of key terms and theories
 - it helps to determine research gaps
 - reading extensively helps build a basic understanding of the topic



Limitation and determination

- a collection of information helps to narrowing down and defining the topic to make it manageable
- formulation of a central research question and deduction of sub-questions
 - Which aspect of reality should be investigated?
- when defining the topic, the following questions should be adressed in writing:
 - What problem do I want to solve?
 - Which questions do I want to answer?
 - What goal should the dissertation lead to?
 - How do I proceed methodically?

How do I find a topic for my doctorate?



Important Notes

- The topic should:
 - spark strong and lasting interest.
 - arouse curiosity.
 - create a sense of meaning and purpose.
 - remain engaging even during challenging times.
 - be manageable, i.e. not too broadly defined.
 - **be categorised by the supervisors as worthy of a doctorate.**

Spend a lot of energy on developing your topic and research questions. These will guide the structure and organisation of your dissertation. Your supervisor at Hof University of Applied Sciences will provide you with advice and support to help you assess the planned topic.

Contact us!



#go2hof4ever #unfoldyourcareer #promotion