

Instructions for writing the qualifying exam proposal (for students):

For proposal preparation:

1. Read broadly, and think deeply.
2. Try something daring and creative. Avoid me-too type of project.
3. Think about the possible approaches to address the questions. You may formulate a hypothesis-driven mechanistic study based on published data. However, you also need alternative approaches. Make sure that you are writing a proposal to find the answer for an interesting question, but not a manuscript with known results.

For proposal writing:

1. Describe the rationales of why you choose the question(s) and how you would test the hypothesis and solve the problem.
2. For experimental designs: design appropriate experimental methods, not to be limited by familiar methodology and always include proper control
3. Follow the format for grant writing.
4. Don't be too ambitious, aiming for a study to be done in about 3 years.

Criteria for QE:

QE will be evaluated based on 1) background knowledge, 2) rationale, originality and feasibility of your proposal, and 3) presentation skill.