

Annex 2: Ph.D. RESEARCH PROPOSAL FORMAT

Project title

Your title should clearly indicate what your proposed research is about.

Research supervisor

State the name, Post, department, and faculty of the academic who has agreed to supervise you.

Introduction

Provide an overview of the research project you propose to carry out. Explain the background of the project, focusing briefly on the major issues of its knowledge domain and clarifying why these issues are worthy of attention.

Statement of the problem

State the major problems and their impacts and implications in brief.

Aims and objectives

What are you trying to achieve with your research? What is the purpose? What are the specific objectives?

Proposed methodology

Provide an overview of the methodology and techniques you will use to conduct your research. Which materials and equipment will you use? Which theoretical frameworks will you draw on? Which method will you use to collect data?

Highlight why you have chosen this particular methodology, detailing its own merits, but also why others may not have been as suitable. You need to demonstrate that you have put thought into your approach and why it's the most appropriate way to carry out your research. It should also highlight potential limitations you anticipate facing, feasibility within time and other constraints, ethical considerations and how you will address these, and general resources, etc.

Expected research contribution

Why is your research question or hypothesis worth asking? How is the current research lacking or falling short? What impact will your research have on the discipline? Will you be extending an area of knowledge, applying it to new contexts, solving a problem, testing a

theory, or challenging an existing one? Establish why your research is important by convincing your audience there is a gap.

Work plan

A work plan is a critical component of your research proposal because it indicates the feasibility of completion within the timeframe and supports you in achieving your objectives over the course of your degree.

Consider the milestones you aim to achieve at each stage of your research. A Ph.D. or master's degree by research can take two to four years of full-time study to complete. It might be helpful to offer year one in detail and the following years in broader terms. Ultimately you have to show that your research is likely to be both original and finished – and that you understand the time involved.

Resources

Provide details of the resources you'll need to carry out your research project. What significant resources are required for the success of your proposed project?. This should also include a proposed budget, which is important to give an indication of how realistic your research proposal is in terms of financial requirements and whether you are receiving any other financial support to conduct the proposed research.

Bibliography and reference

Provide a list of references that you've made throughout your research proposal.