



Ph.D. Research Topic Proposal Template

Please complete sections A and B below

SECTION A: GENERAL DETAILS

Student number		
Title		
Surname		
First name/s		
Title/topic of research		
Date		
Contact details	Work	
	Home	
	Cell	
	Email	
Date submitted		
Supervisor nomination(s)		

SECTION B: RESEARCH PROJECT OUTLINE

1.1 Title
<i>Provide a working title that captures the focus and essence of your research. Keep it short and to the point. Aim for around 10-15 words, for academic audiences.</i>
1.2 Background to the Problem
<i>Provide the context and necessity for the research. Highlight the significance and urgency of the problem.</i>

1.3 Problem Statement
<i>Clearly define the specific problem you are investigating. Explain why it's important to address and the potential consequences if left unresolved. Identify any knowledge gaps or limitations in the current understanding of the problem. Explain how your research fills these gaps or contributes new perspectives. Finally, frame the problem as questions and research objectives.</i>
1.4 Theoretical Framework(s)
<i>Identify the key theoretical framework(s) that inform your research question. Explain how these frameworks will guide your understanding of the problem above.</i>
1.5 Methodology
<i>Outline the methods you plan to use to answer your research question. This can include data collection techniques, participants/informants, analytical tools, and theoretical frameworks you will draw upon. Briefly explain the rationale for your chosen methodology and its suitability for your research project.</i>
1.6 Theoretical and Practical/Managerial Contributions
<i>Explain why your research question is important and worth investigating. Highlight the potential contribution your research will make to existing knowledge, theoretical frameworks, and practical applications. That is, explain how your research will advance theoretical knowledge in your field. Also, discuss the implications of your research for real-world practice.</i>
1.7 References
<i>Include a list of relevant academic references that support your research question, methodology, and the potential significance of your work. Make sure to use correct citation formatting according to the university's requirements.</i>

SECTION C: PERSONAL MISSION AND RESEARCH ROADMAP

1.8 Previous Master's Research
<i>Briefly summarise the research question and key findings of your Master's thesis and discuss how/whether your proposed PhD research extends or builds upon your Master's work.</i>
1.9 Personal Statement
<i>Provide a brief personal statement expressing your interest in the topic, your motivations for pursuing this research, and any relevant skills or experiences you bring to the project.</i>
1.10 Timeline and Milestones
<i>Provide a realistic timeline for your research, outlining key milestones like proposal defence, data collection, analysis, and writing of thesis chapters.</i>

*Minimum of 6 and maximum of 10 pages; prioritize the most important information, such as the research problem, research question, methodology, and expected contribution. avoid including extraneous details; use clear and concise language; Communicate your ideas so that it is easy to follow; organize your proposal logically; Use headings and subheadings to break up the text and make it easy for reviewers to find the information they need; Proofread carefully: Make sure your topic proposal is free of typos and grammatical errors.