



Guidelines for Research Proposals

For MSc (Research) and PhD applications

The research proposal will be equivalent to a small research paper (approx. 2,000 words) and includes relevant literature, research questions, methods and relevance or importance.

This will be used by the faculty along with the CV, academic qualifications and available supervision to determine if the candidate will be accepted for enrolment in the degree.

Research proposals must fit within the faculty's identified areas of strength.

The Format of the Research Proposal

1. Project Title
2. Supervision Team
3. Project Outline - set the scene for your research
 - What is the purpose of your research? What do you hope to achieve?
 - What do you plan on investigating? What are the expected outcomes?
4. Background – provide context for your research topic
 - Provide a brief literature review to include key ideas and important studies from leading researchers in the field.
 - What are the gaps in the current research that you plan to address?
5. Research Methodology – an overview of the research methods and techniques you will use to conduct your research.
 - Include information on the resources you will need (materials, equipment, fieldwork, and conference presentations) – quote these in your proposed budget.
 - Discuss theoretical frameworks, methods of data collection including (where relevant) participant characteristics, potential sample size and ethical considerations.
 - Consult the Equator Network <https://www.equator-network.org/> and briefly describe how your proposed research methods align with contemporary recommendations for different research study designs e.g. PRISMA for systematic reviews and CROSS for survey studies.
 - Consider the feasibility of your approach, identify potential limitations and constraints.
6. Rationale – highlight the importance of your research
 - How is your research innovative? What impact will your research have?
 - What is the intended contribution of your research?
7. References