

Constructing a Research Proposal

Most research projects will require you to construct some form of research proposal, as well as specifying a date by which it should be completed. This is a critical element in a research project, as it provides you with an ostensible and tangible deadline by which your proposal should be reviewed. It is often accompanied by an ethics form that will need to be filled in and sent to a research ethics committee within your department.

Proposal Form

Student name:	Supervisor:	Course:
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1. Study rationale: <i>At an early stage, it is important to consider why you are undertaking the study and how the study will help you to develop both personally and professionally. There has to be a reason why you are undertaking a study within your chosen field.</i>	
2. Study proposal: <i>On the basis of the rationale, what is proposal for the study? In effect, what are you trying to find out through your research?</i>	
3. Research question and aims/hypotheses <i>Although this can be difficult during the early phases of a project, your research question and aim/hypotheses create a sense of both direction and structure for the project.</i>	

<p>4. Literature</p> <p><i>What are the main areas of literature and possibly keywords for searching literature that are going to underpin both the knowledge and theoretical base for this project? At this stage it is really important to identify seminal sources.</i></p>	
<p>5. Methodology and methods</p> <p><i>From an early stage you must be able to distinguish between the methodology and methods and be able to relate these to the research question. Remember that these unique elements contribute to the individuality of the project.</i></p>	
<p>6. Study timeline/Plan</p> <p><i>Over the period of the project, it is critical to develop dates for the completion of each phase.</i></p>	<p><i>Please provide your timeline on a separate sheet.</i></p>
<p>7. Dates for supervisory meetings</p>	
<p>8. Ethics</p> <p><i>From the outset, if ethical concerns are an issue, which is quite likely within an educational setting, these need to be identified.</i></p>	

8. Supervisor feedback	Comments:	Changes made:
	Date:	Date:
	Comments:	Changes made:
	Date:	Date:

Supervisor Signature:

Date:

Student Signature:

Date: