

Research Proposal Template

Proposed title of the project

Your name

Your supervisor's name

Programme

Department

Institution

Date

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Introduction

The introduction should include the following elements:

Background and Context

Lead the reader into the topic and scope of your research.

Problem Statement

Describe the theoretical or practical research problem that you want to address. What is already known about the problem? What is missing from current knowledge?

Research Questions

State the specific question(s) that you aim to answer.

Relevance and Importance of the Research

Make it clear what new insights you will contribute, who they are relevant to, and why the research is worth doing.

Literature Review

The literature review summarizes, compares and critiques the most relevant scholarly sources on the topic. There are many different ways to structure a literature review, but it should explore:

Key Concepts, Theories and Studies

Compare, contrast, and establish the theories and concepts that will be most important for your project.

Key Debates and Controversies

Identify points of conflict and situate your own position.

Gaps in Existing Knowledge

Show what is missing and how your project will fit in.

Research Design and Methods

Here you should explain your approach to the research and describe exactly what steps you will take to answer your questions.

Research design

Explain how you will design the research. Qualitative or quantitative? Original data collection or primary/secondary sources? Descriptive, correlational or experimental?

Methods and Sources

Describe the tools, procedures, participants and sources of the research. When, where and how will you collect, select and analyze data?

Practical Considerations

Address any potential obstacles, limitations and ethical or practical issues. How will you plan for and deal with problems?

Implications and Contributions to Knowledge

Finish the proposal by emphasizing why your proposed project is important and what it will contribute to practice or theory.

Practical Implications

Will your findings help improve a process, inform policy, or make a case for concrete change?

Theoretical Implications

Will your work help strengthen a theory or model, challenge current assumptions, or create a basis for further research?

References

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