

Research Proposal Guidance Notes

PhD research proposals are critical to the success of an application to a PhD programme of study. It is strongly recommended that the proposal be discussed before formal submission, and at an early stage, with a member of staff who is a potential supervisor for the PhD. There is no minimum or maximum word count for a proposal but it is expected that the proposal would be at least 2000 words.

- A proposal should include content around the following headings:
- Title of the Topic
- Background to the project. Research Question(s) / Rationale and Context / Aim and Objectives
- Overview of key literatures/theories relevant to the topic
- Proposed methodology. Discussion of the research design, including the methodology to be adopted and the rationale for adopting it
- Ethical considerations
- Timeline of activities over three years (full-time) or six years (part-time)
- Indicative Bibliography