

Description of the research project – research proposal – for admission

This template applies to the proposal related to applications for admission to the PhD program. Please be aware that plagiarism (including self-plagiarism) is strictly forbidden, and that the proposal will go through a plagiarism check. Please keep the proposal short – maximum 8 pages for section 1-6 – and clear.

PhD candidate:	
Title of thesis:	
Main supervisor:	
Date:	

1. Context

Provide a general description of your field of research and its application.

- You may draw on a particular research tradition or discourse or describe the literature in a particular applied area. Who have been the major players and what is the state of art research within your area/areas? Sometimes there may be two or more areas of the research literature which are relevant to your research. If so, you need to introduce the relevant concepts and issues from each one
- Write about these concepts and research findings in such a way that you demonstrate that there is a substantial existing literature which you will be drawing on, and that you have a working knowledge and understanding of that literature
- Introduce and define the most important concepts, distinctions, principles, and theories which will form the basis of the conceptual framework within which your research question makes sense
- If relevant, present and discuss shortly knowledge needs in the practical field
- If the PhD-project is part of a larger research project, please situate your project within the that project and explain how your project contributes to theory, context and/or methods of that project.

Based on the above, formulate the *research problem* your project will address.

2. Objectives of the research project

Describe the *objectives of your research project and/or formulate temporary research question(s)*, with reference to current knowledge within the field and the research problem. Describe the relevance of your project and explain how it might contribute to the development of your chosen field.

3. Methods

Discuss and describe your research design and methods, and explain, with reference to methods literature, how your research design and methods provides a means to answering the research questions or objectives of your project.

Describe:

- Your proposed research design
- How you plan to collect, process, and analyse the data

4. Ethical aspects of your study

- Describe possible conflict of interests
- Describe how this project relates to your master thesis (avoiding self-plagiarism)?
 - If not relevant, please state that also
- Describe ethical aspects of planning, collecting and analysing data
- Describe privacy concerns (including GDPR issues)

5. References

6. Publication plan

State whether you are writing a monograph or a collection of articles and present a preliminary plan for publication and dissemination of your project.

7. Progress plan

Indicate with an x in the table when the activities are to be executed.

Activities (courses, articles A, B, C..., lab-work, experiments, work-in-progress seminar, midterm evaluation, stays at other institutions, thesis submission, etc.)	Year: <input type="checkbox"/>		Year: <input type="checkbox"/>		Year: <input type="checkbox"/>		Year: <input type="checkbox"/>		Year: <input type="checkbox"/>	
	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II	I	II

Evaluation rubric for the research proposal

This evaluation rubric is a guide for candidates, supervisors, and program committees. The process of evaluating a research proposal is subjective, but we provide these criteria in order to clarify as much as possible our expectations. We have included suggested standards for both pass and fail in order to make everyone aware of the minimum quality we are expecting. It is important to note that the totality of the proposal will be assessed.

Part	Pass	Fail
1. Context	<p>The background has stated the broad theme or topic of the study and its academic and practical importance are explained.</p> <p>The most important previous studies that are relevant to the current research are cited.</p> <p>The research proposal indicates the most important gaps, inconsistencies and/or controversies in the literature that the current study will address.</p> <p>The study's main contribution is presented in a clear way.</p> <p>A clear research problem is presented.</p>	<p>The background for the research proposal is missing or there is a lack connection between the main parts: topic, literature, gaps, inconsistencies and/or controversies, contribution, and research problem.</p>
2. Objectives of the research project	<p>The objectives and/or temporary research questions are presented and address the research problem outlined in the background section.</p> <p>The relevance of the research project is clearly described and how it might contribute to the development of the chosen field is sufficiently explained. This part should demonstrate good scholarly argumentation.</p>	<p>The objectives and/or temporary research questions are not presented.</p> <p>The relevance of the research project is not presented or is incomplete.</p>
3. Methods	<p>A research design and choice of methods is presented</p> <p>It is explained well, with reference to methods literature, how the selected methods will contribute to address the research questions or objectives of the project.</p> <p>A short plan of how to collect, process and analyse the data is given.</p> <p>If the PhD-project is part of a larger research project, the candidate situates the project within the larger project and explains how the project contributes to the larger project.</p>	<p>The research proposal lacks a proposed research design, or the research design is not clear to the reader. The proposed methods are not sufficient discussed.</p> <p>The candidate fails to explain how the research design and methods contributes to answer the research questions or objectives of the project.</p>
4. Ethical aspects of your study	<p>The proposal includes reflections on relevant ethical aspects of the study.</p>	<p>The candidate fails to include any obvious ethical aspects of the study.</p>
5. References	<p>The most important literature that is relevant to the current research is included and the selected</p>	<p>The proposal does not include references to important literature relevant to the project.</p>

	reference style (e. g. APA, Chicago etc.) is used consistently.	
6. Publication plan	If collection of articles: The proposal includes a preliminary publication plan with a good relation and thematic cohesion among the articles. A preliminary dissemination plan is included.	The proposal does not include a preliminary publication or dissemination plan.
7. Progress plan	The research proposal presents a realistic progress plan with good connection between sections 1-6. The progress plan holds most of the needed/relevant activities.	The proposal does not include a progress plan
8. Writing style	The text has been thoroughly spell-checked and proofread. There are no to almost no grammatical or spelling errors. There are no formatting errors.	The proposal is poorly written with frequent spelling, grammatical, and formatting errors.
9. Overall criteria	The projects originality, creativity, feasibility (organisation of the project and progress plan) and expected impact.	

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