

Writing a Research Proposal

A Research Proposal is an outline of your proposed project and may include:

- Title/Topic of the proposed research project
- Broad area of proposed research
- Define clearly question/s and approach to answering it/them
- Explain the earlier work/s that you are aware about in the proposed area/topic.
- Highlight its relevance and significance
- Explain how you propose to carry out the research.

Research proposals may vary in length; however for the purpose of this application we expect no more than 1,000 words.

It may please be kept in mind that this research proposal is by no means your final research topic and is open to partial or major changes during the programme.

Research Proposal Outline with explanation

| Proposal part | Explanation |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Title | Provide a brief and meaningful title to your project |
| 1. Introduction | Background or introduction section provides a description of the basic facts and importance of the research area - what is your research area, the motivation of research, and how important is it for the industry practice/ knowledge advancement |
| 2. Problem Statement | Problem statement provides a clear and concise description of the issues that need to be addressed - what is the specific problem in that research area that you will address (e.g. lack of understanding of a subject, low performance ...)? |
| 3. Objectives | Objectives provide a list of goals that will be achieved through the proposed research - what are the benefits/ impact (e.g. better understanding improvement productivity ...) that will be generated if the research problem is answered? |
| 4. Preliminary Literature Review | Preliminary literature review: provide a summary of previous related research on the research problem and their strength and weakness and a justification of your research - what is known/ what have been done by others? And, why your research is still necessary? |
| 5. Methodology | Research methodology defines the research methods and logic step – What to do and how to solve the problem and achieve proposed objectives? Which research methods (e.g. survey, modelling, case study ...) will be used? Attach a project schedule table, if necessary. |
| 6. References | All factual material that is not original with you must be accompanied by a reference to its source. Please use ASCE guideline on reference and citation style. |

WRITING A THESIS PROPOSAL

