



25 November 2009

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING AN MPhil / PhD RESEARCH PROPOSAL

INTRODUCTION

Before embarking on an MPhil/PhD Research Degree, candidates must formally submit a Research Proposal to the Research Degrees Committee for consideration. The proposal is an important indication of the candidate's ability to write a coherent and scholarly document that will serve as a descriptive prospectus of the research to be undertaken.

The Research Proposal should be appended to the form "Registration for an MPhil/PhD Research Degree" (copy enclosed), duly filled by the candidate and supported by two referees.

As a general guide, your proposal should normally not exceed the following lengths:

	Words
Computer Sciences, Software Engineering, Systems Engineering	[MPhil – 3,000 PhD – 3,000
Business Studies, Environmental Studies, Financial Studies, Human Resource Management, Public Sector Administration, Social Studies, Tourism & Hospitality Management	[MPhil – 7,000 PhD – 10,000

OUTLINE OF THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

The Research Proposal shall include, and not limited to, the following headings:

1. Tentative Title
2. Introduction
3. Literature Review
Overview of current findings in the area, with references
4. Research aims and objectives
Statements of aims and objectives you would achieved on completion of the research.
Why is the research worth doing?
5. Research questions and/or problems
The research question(s) is one or a series of concise statements of the problem and topic of research, of not more than 300 words.

6. Research Methodology

- What procedures and /or analytical processes would be used?
- The sources of information and type of research methods you plan to use.

7. Resource Requirements

- Specialist Equipment/Facilities
- Research papers/journals, etc
- Hardware/Software

8. Breakdown of Expenses and Sources of funding (self or sponsored) with cost breakdown.

9. Other Considerations (Ethical, social, Health & Safety, etc)

10. Research Plan, with clear milestones and timeframes

11. References of at least 7 recent publications during the last 5-7 years.