



## DOCTORAL SCHOOL

### GUIDELINES FOR WRITING A RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDIES

#### INTRODUCTION

Before embarking on a Postgraduate Research Degree, candidates must formally submit a Research Proposal to the Doctoral School 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 "Application for an MPhil/PhD Research Degree" (copy enclosed), duly filled by the candidate and supported by the proposed supervisor(s).

Candidates shall consider the following outline when preparing their research proposal and which normally will not exceed 3000 words.

#### OUTLINE OF THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

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

1. Tentative Title
2. Introduction (on your research topic)
3. Preliminary Literature Review  
Overview of current findings in the area, with references
4. 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.
5. Research aims and objectives  
Statements of aims and objectives you would achieve on completion of the research.  
Why is the research worth doing?
6. Research Methodology (Should be detailed to span the duration of study)
  - 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 should be supported with most recent publications in the area and should be in the Harvard Referencing Style.