

MPhil/PhD Research Proposal Guidelines

It is essential that you spend some time investigating the research projects undertaken by our staff to check that your proposed research topic fits within our research expertise. It is also helpful for you to contact the member(s) of staff who you have identified as most appropriate to supervise your proposed research, in advance of your making a formal application, so that you can discuss your proposal with them and ascertain whether they have the capacity to take on an additional postgraduate research student.

It is also essential that you submit a research proposal with your application. Your proposal will help us judge your aptitude for undertaking research at doctoral level. The care with which you research and compile your research proposal will be taken to indicate something of your level of commitment to undertaking research on the topic you have proposed.

THESIS PROPOSAL

Ideally the proposal should be around 2 pages long. It should include:

Area of Interest

Specify broadly what area you propose working in and why you want to work in this area.

What will be new about the research and why does this research need to be done?

What might be significant/ original about this work? How will it contribute to knowledge? How does it build on/ relate to other research in the area? Does this research build on work you have done at undergraduate/MA level or/and as practitioners in the field of study?

Emerging Research Questions

Indicate something of the work that has been done in the area of interest. A brief literature review would be helpful. What are the research questions that you seek to explore/ answer?

Methodology

Indicate the methodologies that would be particularly appropriate to your research. These might be the conceptual approaches/ frameworks, the engagement with theoretical, historical or creative practice and/ or the practical research methodologies such as performance analysis, archival research, practice, interviews etc.

If the research is based on your own practices, indicate any possible resource requirements – space, equipment etc.

Scope and Significance

Indicate something of the range of work you hope to research; for example, do you have case studies in mind? How will you set the parameters for your research? Are there areas you will exclude and, if so, why?

In addition you should submit the following

1. Timeline

This will be particularly helpful if field work is envisaged. The project must be appropriate to three year's full time study.

2. Preliminary Bibliography

You may find the following link/info page helpful

<http://www.findaphd.com/student/study/study-33.asp>