PM600: Assessment Task Information

Key Information:

Assessment title:	Research Project Proposal
Assessment set in:	Week 1, Cycle 1
Assessment deadline:	23:59, 27th October 2019
Assessment feedback:	00:01, 11th November 2019
Assessment weighting:	0% (Formative)

Assessment Instructions:

Core Task:

To write a research project proposal for a supervisor at a university. The research project should be in a subject area and on a topic related to your chosen degree programme. The aim of the proposal is to describe what you wish to research (how and why) and to persuade your research supervisor about the importance of your topic and the suitability of the chosen research methods.

Structure:

Your proposal should follow the structure outlined below:

Cover page (excluded from the word count)
The cover page should include the working title for your research project (15 – 20 words).

Section 1: Introduction (200 – 250 words)
This section should provide background and contextual information about the proposed project, and explain the rationale of the project (i.e. describe why it is important to carry out this work). You must provide a brief description of the proposed project and its aims and objectives. You must also provide evidence to support the need for this project (e.g. research evidence/statistics on your target population and the issue being addressed).

Section 2: Research Questions (50 – 100 words)
This section should include the key questions (maximum three) that this project aims to answer. You must also provide a justification for these questions.

Section 3: Literature Review (300 – 350 words)
This section should identify 3 – 5 academic sources that you plan to use in your literature review. You should give an overview of them, consider their strengths and weaknesses and relate them to your research questions.

Section 4: Methodology (200 – 250 words)
This section should briefly describe and justify the overall methodology. This will require you to discuss a range of methodological issues:

1. **If you choose primary research methodology, you should consider:**
   - The research perspective and strategy (e.g.: Will you apply a quantitative or qualitative approach? Will you apply a survey, case study or ethnography strategy? Why?).
   - Your data collection methods (e.g. Will you use questionnaires, interviews, focus groups, etc.? Why?).
   - Your sample size and sampling technique.

2. **If you choose secondary research methodology, you should consider:**
   - Why secondary research is suitable for answering your research questions;
   - The general strengths and weaknesses of using secondary data;
   - The datasets you intend to use and the strengths and weaknesses of these;
   - How and why you have selected this data.

Section 5: Ethics (100 – 150 words)
This section should consider the ethical issues which are relevant for your project and also provide concrete solutions of how these will be solved. For secondary research, you should acknowledge the sources of data.

References (excluded from the word count)
In this section, you should include a list of all the sources you have referred to in the proposal.

Referencing style:

The college's Harvard referencing guide must be followed.
https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/nmp/sonet/rlos/studyskills/harvard/

Word count:

1,000 words (+/- 10%)
The cover page, working title and list of references are excluded from the word count.

Presentation:

The following requirements must be followed:
- Arial, font size 12 and 1.5 line spacing
- Text should be aligned to the left
- Each page of the assignment should have a header containing your student ID number, module code (PM600) and the name of your class tutor. **Do not include your name**.
- All pages should be numbered.

Submission:

You should submit an electronic copy of your Research Project Proposal (as a Word document) via TurnItIn on the VLE. (Note: Assessments submitted after the submission deadline may not be accepted.)

The cover page should contain the following information:
- Module Code: PM600
- Module Title: Research Project
- Group: (e.g. Sep A)
- Assessment Title: Research Project Proposal
- Working Title: (15 – 20 words)
- Tutor's Name:
- Student ID Number: (please use your Kaplan ID number only and **NOT your name**)
- Date of Submission:
- Word count: (not the word limit)

Theory and/or task resources required for the assessment:

A range of sources is appropriate for this assignment: you may wish to use informal sources for background research on your topic (e.g. newspapers and reputable websites) in addition to a diverse range of academic sources (including journals, textbooks and chapters in edited volumes). Databases are a rich source for datasets. A <u>minimum</u> of 3 - 5 academic, English language sources are required for this assessment.

Learning Outcomes Assessed:

The following learning outcomes are assessed in this task:

- Produce a project proposal connected to their field of study including research questions or hypotheses, work plan, research methods and ethical considerations.

- Implement appropriate qualitative or quantitative research methods and suggest methodology.

Assessment and feedback:

<u>Assessment</u>:

You will receive feedback, but not a mark, for this assessment. It is designed to support you for the summative task due in week 10. The following aspects of your proposal will be assessed:

1. Introduction and research questions:
- How well you presented the rationale for your research project.
- How clear, relevant, viable and testable are the aims, objectives, research questions and hypothesis of your project were.

2. Literature Review:
- How comprehensive your literature base is.
- How relevant the sources you used are for your research.
- How well you analysed and compared the sources in your proposal
- How accurate your referencing is

3. Methods and Ethics:
- How you chose the research design for your project
- How appropriate are the chosen methods for your project
- How clear the timeline for your research is
- How well have you considered ethical issues

4. Clarity of Expression and Presentation:
- How well you presented and formatted your proposal
- How accurate and persuasive your written English is
- How well you engaged the audience

<u>Feedback</u>:

Your tutor will assess your assignment and provide you with online feedback via TurnItIn. You can use this feedback to guide your further learning on the module.