

The title of this proposal
GFM M.Sc. Research Proposal

Your Name

July 10, 2010

Abstract

This is a template file, which you should interpret as a suggestion to format your proposal. Make changes if there is a need! In the main section titles, an indication of typical length is provided; you can deviate from this, but probably not more than by 50% of the indicated size. You will see that it adds up to approx. 8 pages, excluding illustrations. You are expected to remove all text in this template document that has been typeset using L^AT_EX's `\documentclass` command, and replace it with your own specific information. Also, you should remove this abstract here completely.

1 Motivation and problem statement (≈ 1 page)

In this section, you explain why your project should be done, and you define, in the most concrete way, what the problem is that you will be addressing. You should refrain from referring to any hint of solution.

2 Research identification (≈ 1 page)

In this section, you will identify what issues need to be researched. You will do so by first stating what are the overall objectives, and then deriving from these the questions that need to be answered to reach the afore-mentioned objectives.

2.1 Research objectives

Objectives can be defined as the end terms, i.e., results of your project. There is no need to mention the thesis as such, and you should identify the objectives defined as results that others can use after your project has come to an end. Please identify the audience that is interested in your research results.

2.2 Research questions

It will in general not be easy to meet the objectives and, thus, to obtain the wanted results. To do so, a number of hurdles need to be taken, say a 'stepping stones' towards the final result(s). These 'stepping stones', in turn, can be

formulated as fundamental research questions; they require an answer, or your objectives will not be met.

2.3 Innovation aimed at

Since you are aiming to obtain an M.Sc. degree in Geoinformatics, you need to provide a proof of your capacity as a (junior) GFM researcher. To this end, there should be some type of innovative character for the domain of Geoinformatics to your work. In this section, you will describe what you think will be the novelty of your work.

2.4 Related work

It is likely that you will not be the first to work on the formulated problem, and so in this section you will indicate other projects that have addressed the same or a similar problem. You should spend a few words, in summary, on where your project will probably deviate from these related projects.

3 Project set-up (≈ 2 pages)

Whereas Section ?? discussed the what of the project, this section describes the how. How are you going to execute the project, and why is your approach appropriate for the problem as earlier described?

3.1 Method adopted

This section describes your plan-of-attack. How are you going to address the research questions, and which philosophy (style) of work will you adopt.

3.2 Plan of the project

This section describes the phases (steps, work packages) that the project will go through, more or less chronologically. An important characteristic is that the plan should be feasible and realistic, and that the time allotted to various phases of the project matches each phase's complexity. It is wise to relate phases to research questions identified above, as well as to indicate which results are expected from each phase, and how they contribute to the project's overall objectives.

3.3 Risks and contingencies

Not all work will be executed without problems, and it is wise at this planning stage to think up what kind of problem might arise at what point in time. Once that has been done, you should also indicate possible alternatives.

4 Resources required (≈ 2 pages)

This section is devoted to the work environment within which you will conduct your work; essentially, the requirements that must be met to arrive at results for the project. Most resources below speak for themselves. Whatever you list

remains your primary responsibility; in other words, you are not writing up a wish list here that the GFM programme must meet. If any complications can be expected to meet these requirements, you would be wise to signal these in your proposal.

4.1 Information

Which information sources, except for the literature, will you be needing?

4.2 Data

Which data sets must be available?

4.3 People

To which people do you need access? This excludes supervisor(s), assessment board members, and student advisor.

4.4 Software and hardware

Which computer requirements exist?

4.5 Finances

Are any financial resources needed?

5 Supervision ($\approx \frac{1}{2}$ page)

In this section, you write up how you (want to) organise the supervision effort. Formally, your first supervisor will be assigned three hours on average per week of supervision time, and the second supervisor just enough for occasional support and to read and comment on the thesis, namely one hour on average per week. Be aware that towards the end you want your supervisor to be available more!

5.1 Staff already consulted

Briefly identify whom you have contacted for preparing this proposal.

5.2 Communication plan

How do you intend to organise the communication with supervisors? Think of the tools, timing, meetings, deadlines and schedules, and both your and her/his/their agenda(s).

References (≈ 1.5 pages)

Last but not least, you want to indicate the relevance of your proposed project, and the literature is a good way to do so. Obviously, you also include references used in your argumentation above.