Research Methodology – Assignment 1 (2025)
Writing a research proposal

Overview

Prior to the commencement of the research project, there should be an agreement between the person who authorizes the study and the researcher on the problem to be investigated as well as the research design. This avoids later frustrations for both parties. This is usually done through a research proposal submitted by the researcher. This assignment would be helpful in your final research study which is an integral part of your MSc degree programme.

Under research design section of the research proposal, it would be prudent to include the sample and sampling techniques planned to be used, research instruments intended to be used, data collection methods, techniques of data analytics planned and also the resource requirement for the project including time and budget.

Instructions

At first select a topic from a research area of your interest. An area close to your work encourages and motivate to complete the research work as it serves as a driving factor for the success of the research as well as the advancement of knowledge through this is an added advantage for your work. Research topic should reflect the problem to be investigated as well as the study area.

The research proposal is a result of a planned, organized, and careful effort of the researcher and it should be a brief report. The structure, format and content of the report is quite flexible, but it is essential to include the followings as per the nature of the research you selected:
1. A working title.
2. Background of the study with the significance of the study.
3. The problem statement including research questions
4. Main objective and specific sub objectives with measurability and delineating the scope of the study
5. Theoretical framework if applicable
6. The research Methodology, offering details on:
   Research Methodology including Research Philosophy, Approach, Research Strategy, Methods, Time Horizons, sampling techniques, instrumentation, data collection procedures Proposed techniques of data analysis.
7. Resource requirement
8. Planned time line of the research study
9. List of References[Any reference style such as IEEE, Harvard, etc., All references should be cited in the main text.)

You should derive a research niche through the literature review and it would be better to identify the novelty of your planned work. Please ensure that you have undergone through recent relevant literature covering an adequate breadth to avoid possible frustrations in future when attempting to publish a conference or journal article based on your findings of the research study. Lastly you must not include material copied from elsewhere except where it is obviously presented as a 'quote' and if you present ideas, information, data, diagrams or tables based on someone else's work, you must acknowledge this – OTHERWISE YOUR WORK COULD BE CONSIDERED AS PLAGIARISED.
Learning outcomes assessed by this assignment:

- ✓ give you an opportunity to exhibit your mastery of subject knowledge, familiarity with current research trends and gain a detailed knowledge in the area of study
- ✓ identify a research study with significant contribution to knowledge or to find a solution to an existing problem, and develop skills to define a problem statement as well as craft SMART sub objectives delineating the scope of the study
- ✓ formulate a detailed plan of the project including methodological rigorous approach to address a problem and theoretical framework which can be achievable within the required time and available resources.
- ✓ develop advanced analysis, evaluation and synthesis skills, as well as creativity and the ability to combine vertical and lateral thinking
- ✓ use a range of methods and techniques to collect, analyze and process information/data using relevant theories, tools, equipment and techniques
- ✓ Acquire skill to structure, present and write a research proposal, using an academic standard at masters level and verbal communication skills in presenting

Word Count: 1500 words (Font = Aerial, Size = 12, Spacing = 1.5)
Please note:
- ✓ Include a word count at the end of the main text.
- ✓ Word count is usually taken to include all the main body text of the piece of work, including headings for ease of counting automatically. Title, contents, list of references, bibliography and any appendices are excluded from the word count.
- ✓ Word count ±10% is acceptable within the University's normal submission guidelines. Beyond that margin you may be penalized. And tutors may check the word count, so don't cheat.

What this assignment accounts for?

This assessment (Assignment 1) counts for 50% of your marks for continuous assessments of this module, i.e. 20% from your final mark for the module

Submission of Assignment & Deadline

Submit your final assessment for marking by lecturer-in-charge in the normal way.
Instructions for assignment submission will be found on the CourseWeb site.

The DEADLINE for the submission of the report is 5.00 p.m., 7th April 2025.

Notes on submission:

It is important that your work is presented well and clearly. Please follow these guidelines:
- ✓ Include at least your name, the module name, and page numbers on every page (usually in a header or footer). You may also want to include the assessment title.
- ✓ If you include diagrams, make sure they display and print correctly.
- ✓ Keep a copy of all work you submit. This is a Institute requirement as we are entitled to ask for a copy should work be lost. You should keep all your work at least until you receive official notification of your results from an exam board.

Marking Criteria

Your report will be marked according to the following criteria:-

Assessment Criteria	Mark (%)	Fail	Pass	Distinction
1.Title, background and significance (LO1 partly, LO2)	25%	The title hardly reflects the focus of the study. Background information is hardly relevant and does not provide a clear lead-in to the research problem. Significant of the study is not clearly highlighted.	The title reflect the focus of the study. Background information is fairly relevant but does not provide a clear lead-in to the research problem. Significance of the study is fairly highlighted	+ The title very clearly reflects the focus of the study, revealing adequate information about the variables, subjects & research setting. Background information is very relevant and provides a very clear lead-in to the research problem. Significance of the study is justified with literature.
2. Problem statement (LO1)	10%	Problem statement is hardly articulated clearly and not supported/justified by theory and/or past research	Problem statement is articulated fairly clearly but only minimally supported/ justified by theory and/or past research	+Problem statement is articulated very clearly & well supported /justified by theory and/or past research.
3. Aims and objectives (LO1)	15%	Research objectives & problem statement are hardly focused and clear. Sub objectives are not measureable and not specific	Research objectives & problem statement are fairly focused and clear. Sub objectives may be specific but not measureable	+Research objectives & problem statement are highly focused and clear. Sub objectives are SMART in nature
4.. Research Methodology including Research Philosophy, Approach, Research Strategy, Methods, Time Horizons, sampling techniques, instrumentation, data collection procedures LO3, LO4)	30%	Somewhat appropriate research design that is capable of addressing only some of the research questions. Rather vague description of the research sample, sampling techniques and data collection procedures. Justifications for the use of the methodology are vaguely presented and not discussed	Fairly appropriate research design that is capable of addressing some of the research questions. Fairly clear description of the research sample, sampling techniques, data collection procedures and methods of data analysis. Justifications for the use of the methodology are presented but not adequately discussed..	+ Very appropriate research design that is capable of addressing all the research questions. Very clear description of the research sample, sampling techniques, data collection procedures and methods of data analysis. Justifications for the use of the methodology are clearly presented and adequately discussed..
5. Data Analysis (LO4, LO5 partly)	10%	The data analyses identified are appropriate but hardly adequate to address the research questions	Data analyses identified are appropriate but only adequate to address some of the research questions.	+Data analyses identified are appropriate, extensive and sophisticated, and are adequate to address all the research questions
6. Resource requirement and planning for research (LO4)	05%	No resource requirement is given and plan to carry out the research is vague	Resources required is given but do not justify its use. Research plan given is adequate but not gone to the details	+Resources required is justified and availability discussed. A clear research plan is given with the necessary details
7. Writing style, language use and grammatical accuracy (LO3)	05%	Writing style and language use are not apt for academic writing. Many grammatical errors that impede communication	Writing style and language use are fairly apt for academic writing. Some grammatical errors that impede communication	+Writing style and language use are very apt for academic writing. Hardly any grammatical errors that impede communication.