

Assessment 1: Developing a research concept note Due date: 19 March 2025 23h59 – Turnitin

A research concept note aims to showcase a planned or intended research undertaking. It is less detailed than a formal research proposal. Many post-graduate programs require applicants to submit a research concept note, which is used for selection into the program. A research concept note shows that the applicant has a good understanding of recent and relevant literature, which includes persistent challenges in the area; a clearly defined problem statement or statement of opportunity, and the aim of the research, which describes the intention of the research in response to the outlined problem or opportunity.

This appendix shows the marking rubric for the assessment. It can be used as a guideline for the requirements of each section.

A template for the cover page and plagiarism declaration is available via Moodle.

Late submission will incur a penalty of -30% per day past the due date.

Use Times New Roman, size 12, line spacing 1.5, and justify your paragraphs.

SECTION	SIZE	MARK					SUB-TOTAL
		0	2	3	4	5	/5
1. Title of study	Max 2 lines	Not done.	A general title similar to a blog or popular website.	The title weakly describes the research but has variables of interest.	Good title that adequately describes the research. Variables and proposed solutions are included.	Excellent title that fully describes the research. Short and creative. Variables and the proposed solution are included. Contains technical terminology and not general terms.	
		0	0.5	1	1.5	2	/2
2. Declaration	Declare and sign	Not done	Use initials, not a signature.	Information is missing	One not completed and aligned	All information is completed accordingly	

		0	1-6	7-9	10-14	15	/15
3. Research context	½ page	Not done	The significance is unclear or not addressed.	The importance is mentioned but not well-developed or justified	Explains the significance but may lack depth or clarity.	Clearly explain the importance of the research and its contribution to the field.	
		0	10	15	20	25	/25
4. Literature review Definitions of significant areas of interest and how they intersect. Publications (journal and/or conference proceedings) not older than 5 years should be journal or conference proceedings only. Structure and logical flow between subsections. Should include subsections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the <i>variables</i> of interest. A table summary of 10 to 12 publications. -<i>The table columns to include at minimum: author/s (year); problem being solved by the author/s; method/proposed solution to the problem; conclusion/findings of the paper.</i> Summary of the publications and the knowledge gap. 	2 ½ pages	Not done	The definitions are unclear. The intersection is not clearly described. Publications are too old and/or not relevant. The publications seem to be random and not focused on the topic. Tabulated information is not focused on the topic. The information in the table is a <i>copy-n-paste</i> . The information in the table is inaccurate and not an accurate reflect the actual publication. The summary and literature knowledge gap is not derived or supported by the table's publications.	The definitions are clear but weakly intersect. At least half the publications are recent and relevant. At least half the publications are focused on the topic. Tabulated information is an accurate depiction of the actual publication. A summary is derived from the tabulated information. The summary describes the literature knowledge gap based on the tabulated information.	The definitions are clear and intersect. Supported by at least two recent citations. All publications are recent and relevant. All publications support the topic, problem statement, and aim. Tabulated information is well paraphrased from the actual publication. A summary is strongly derived from the tabulated information. The knowledge gap is clearly described. Good structure, sub-headings, and flow leading to a summary.	Excellent craft of subsections. Publications not older than 2 years. Clear and logical link to the aim. Demonstrates excellent state-of-the-art understanding through clear and concise definitions, intersections, and tabulated information. The statements are excellently linked to the research aim and support the problem statement. Clearly outlined research gap. Demonstration of sound synthesis. Use of compound citations. Excellent structure and subheadings titles. Logical and smooth flow of the write-up until the salient conclusion is presented.	The definitions are unclear. The intersection is not clearly described. Publications are too old and/or not relevant. The publications seem to be random and not focused on the topic. Tabulated information is not focused on the topic. The information in the table is a <i>copy-n-paste</i> . The information in the table is inaccurate and not an accurate reflect the actual publication. The summary and literature knowledge gap is not derived or supported by the table's publications.
		0	3	6	8	10	/10

5. Statement of problem or opportunity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derives from literature overview. A solvable “research” problem or statement of intent. Not an isolated problem, i.e. this is not a problem occurring in one or a few businesses or 	Max ½ page	Not done.	Weak statement. Not a <i>research</i> problem, but instead, an isolated one. Not complex enough to warrant a research undertaking. Too large an undertaking to complete given the available time and resources.	Weak link to literature overview. A simplistic research problem that barely warrants research.	Good problem statement that derives from the literature overview. It supports the aim. Provides sufficient level of detail. This is a problem that is worthy of research. Short and to the point.	This is an excellent problem statement. Strong logical links to the literature overview and aim. A detailed description of the problem, not a generalised one. Rich in technical details, which shows good engagement with literature.	
		0	3	6	8	10	/10
6. Research aim and objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes the significant variables of the study and a proposed solution. Derives from the problem statement and linked with the title. 	1 statement Max 5 statements of objectives	Not done.	Poorly structured and not linked to the problem nor the literature overview.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satisfactory. Achievable given time and resources. Although clumsy, it contains the variables and a proposed solution. Loose link to other sections and title. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good structure. Achievable. Contains the variables and a proposed solution. Short and concise. Aligned with literature overview, title, and problem statement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent structure. Achievable study. Variables are well encapsulated. Highly detailed proposed solution. Short and concise. Excellent link to title, problem, literature overview, and research gap. 	
		0	5	10	15	20	/20
7. Referencing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DUT/Harvard Use of EndNote must be evident Correct format for citations and reference list 		No citations	Sources cited are not in a reference list. The reference list contains sources not present in the text—errors in formatting.	Some sources cited are not in the reference list and contain sources not present in the text. There are also formatting errors.	Citations within the text and in the reference, list are matched. Minor formatting and/or other errors.	Every citation and the reference list are complete and correctly formatted. There are no errors.	
		0	4	8	10	13	/13
8. Quality of the write-up		No format followed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High similarity& plagiarism; spelling and grammar errors; poor layout and structure; exceeding recommended size; not using template and missing a signed plagiarism statement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> similarity& plagiarism; spelling and grammar errors; layout and structure; not recommended size; using template and A signed plagiarism statements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less plagiarism; Moderate spelling and grammar errors; Moderate layout and structure; not recommended size; using template and A signed plagiarism statement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No plagiarism; Good spelling and grammar errors; Good layout and structure; not recommended size; using template and A signed plagiarism statement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No plagiarism; Excellent spelling and grammar errors; Excellent layout and structure; not recommended size; using template and A signed plagiarism statement.
							Total mark /100