# Draft

# Research Proposal

# (September 2023 intake – CA2 piece)

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## What is a Research Proposal?

**The main purpose of a research proposal (RP) is to specify the following:**

* **why the research problem warrants investigation;**
* **that the proposed methodology is appropriate and feasible;**
* **that the results will likely make an original contribution to the research field and possibly indicate areas for further research.**

**The research proposal provides an outline of the premise of what you are proposing to research. However, it is subject to adaptation as the research proceeds. This is perfectly acceptable once any adaptations are made in conjunction with your Data Analysis project supervisor.**

**It serves as a starting point for development and discussion with the assistance of your Data Analysis project supervisor.**

**The research proposal will include:**

* **Proposed title and topic area of Data Analysis project (10%)**
* **Research Objectives/statement of hypothesis/eses (including alignment to your Topic area) (15%)**
* **A comprehensive literature review of previous research in the area and justification for further research. The word count in your Capstone Project for your literature review is to be between 3600 and 4400 words\*. (15%)**
* **Proposed sampling strategy (20%) – you are required to identify the appropriate population(s) of interest, sampling method(s), type(s) and a support paragraph outlining the reasons for your choices in each of these areas.**
* **Proposed primary research methodology (20%) - you are required to identify the appropriate research methodology/ies you plan to use and a support paragraph outlining the reasons for your choice/s. (PLEASE NOTE: You are not required to undertake any primary research for the Research Proposal)**
* **You are required to discuss the ethical and legal/regulatory considerations you expect to encounter in both the sourcing and the analysis of appropriate data for this project. (10%)**

**Identify strategies as to how you plan to address these considerations in an appropriate manner. Please refer to at least five distinct sections of the Ethics and Data Protection handout in your answer. (10%)**

**The length of the research proposal should be between 6000 and 8000\* words. Note a significant amount of this word count will be allocated to your Literature Review\*.**

## Additional guidance:

#### Research Objectives/Statement of hypothesis or research objectives:

**Please ensure your Research Objectives relate directly to your Title and Topic area, and take on board feedback provided from your first assignment on this question.**

## The Literature Review:

**This is a summary of academic literature about your subject and will contain most of your sources. Therefore you should identify which sources you are going to consult in which fields / areas and the rationale for doing so. You should demonstrate why the investigation and examination of selected research studies will contribute to your research.  The literature review word count is to be between 4000-6000\* words and it is expected that you will provide between 30-50 strong valid sources. These can be taken from a broad range of materials but please ensure that you do not over-rely on the use of grey materials.**

**Sampling strategy:   
This section should include a concise explanation of the sample (or census) population(s), the sampling method(s) to be used and the sampling type(s) to be used. Please note the justification for your selections represents half of the marks for this question.**

**Primary Research Methodology:**

**You should include a detailed explanation of your proposed choice of data collection methods such as observation, questionnaires, experimentation (causality), focus groups and in-depth interviews. (This list is not exhaustive but the above methods are the most frequently used. Please chat to Rory if you wish to look at other methods). Please note the justification for your selections represents half of the marks for this question.**

**Support**

**The college recognises that this is a significant undertaking for you. Both Rory Byrne and David McQuaid are available to assist you should you have any valid questions relevant to your own particular project.**

**David McQuaid – Programme Leader,** [**dmcquaid@cct.ie**](mailto:dmcquaid@cct.ie)

**Rory Byrne – R & PE lecturer,** [**rbyrne@cct.ie**](mailto:rbyrne@cct.ie)

**(Please allow up to 3 working days for the email to be reviewed and replied to)**

**Submission date for this second assignment is May 12th, 23.55 hours. Submissions received after this date may not be assessed in time for you to proceed to the next sitting of the Capstone Project module. Please be careful in relation to this point.**