

Exam

MA240, Research Methods in Computer Science

Module leader and e-mail

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Exam: Writing a Research proposal

Writing a **research proposal** is an integral part of the academic research process. The aim of this assignment is to draw upon what you have learned so far and **identify a research problem you would like to investigate further**. You will need to think through how you systemically will study (and perhaps solve) that problem.

You are free to choose any research question / topic that you find interesting from your studies or related fields. This is also an opportunity for planning and working through a problem relevant to your Masters thesis next semester.

The proposal should include the following elements :

- The research issue – what you want to do research on, and why.
- The research objective – what you want to find out and why this is important or relevant for the research question.
- A description of how the research problem was converted (operationalized) into a realistic research question. Define three or four specific questions that are based on the research problem – and state how and why these are relevant.
- If relevant, outline the theoretical framework you (propose to) adopt.
- A description of the method(s) you propose to use to answer your research question.
- A justification for why the method(s) you propose is/are appropriate in terms of your research question and research objectives.
- An outline of the proposed plan and preparation for data collection (i.e. what type of data should be collected, how much, size and type of sample, time estimations for data collection).
- A discussion of how you propose to analyse and interpret the data.
- A discussion of the issues of reliability and validity and how they could potentially impact the legitimacy of your results.

This is not an exhaustive list. You may include other relevant information that you believe is important to explain your research proposal and the choices you make. It is important that you are able to justify all of your choices and answer the 'why' question in relation to the points listed above.

The research proposal should be written at a level that reflects the lectures, reading materials and an expanded literature search. **Maximum number of words: 3000.**