

## **Suggestions for 100pt proposals, based on marker feedback from previous semesters**

**Writing style:** Your proposal is a piece of scientific writing. As such, you should avoid editorialising (i.e., proclaiming an opinion that something is "interesting" or "important") on a particular method, technology, or field of work.

**Research question:** Refer to your notes from COMP90044 Research Methods to refresh your memory on what constitutes *research*: "creative and systematic work undertaken to increase the stock of knowledge" (Wikipedia, citing the OECD Guidelines for Collecting and Reporting Data on Research and Experimental Development). Notably, research is distinct from development or implementation. Research involves addressing a specific question, the answer to which is not known at the outset, while development or implementation may involve the application of existing knowledge to a particular problem. As this is a research project, the focus should be on addressing a research question.

**Background:** Your proposal should provide sufficient general background that it can be read and understood by someone with broad academic expertise in the field of computing, but who may not have deep knowledge of your specific area of research. Ensure that your review literature engages deeply with the papers and articles that you cite, rather than just "name-checking" them.

**Methods or innovations:** The methods you use in your research, or the innovations you propose to address the research question, should be justified by their technical appropriateness. You should not motivate key technical choices on the basis that a particular method is "popular", for example.

**Data and experiments:** You should ensure that experiments make appropriate use of data. Consider how representative your data set is, and the extent to which you can make general conclusions based on it. Be aware of issues that arise if a data set is used to develop, refine, or select a method, and then is used again in the evaluation of that method; evaluation requires independent data. Thus, if you have a limited amount of data, consider splitting it into a subset used during methods development, and a subset (not used during development) used to evaluate the methods you have developed. The code used in experiments should be defensible and, when baselines are used, they should be implemented to the same standard as any new code developed for evaluation of the proposed method.

**Citations:** Should be punctuated as if they were parenthetical remarks. For example, don't write "In [3] the authors showed that dark chocolate is superior to white chocolate. Alternatives include "Previous research has shown that dark chocolate is superior to white chocolate [3]." or potentially "Dark chocolate is superior to white chocolate [3]."

**Timeline:** Your proposal should contain a realistic and feasible schedule for carrying out and reporting the proposed research. This doesn't have to be lengthy, but should include major component of research, such as (relevant) data collection, implementation, testing and evaluation, data analysis, and writing. This timeline should cover the full duration of your project until submission of your final report. You should make allowance for the time that your supervisor will need to read your work as it progresses and give you feedback.

Keep in mind that in the final assessment it is your written work that is assessed, not code, data, survey responses, or other such material. Your plans should be focused on producing that written work; the other elements are tools and infrastructure that allow the report to be completed.