

FORM 2A- RESEARCH MASTER'S PSYCHOLOGY: THESIS RESEARCH PROPOSAL

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Student information

Student name: _____

Student ID card number: _____

Address: _____

Postal code and
residence: _____

Telephone number: _____

Email address: _____

Major: _____

1.2 Supervisor information

Supervisor name*: _____

Second assessor name*: _____

Note. If either the supervisor or the second assessor is not exam certified, please also fill in the name of the formal supervisor/formal second assessor.

Specialization: _____

1.3 Other information

Date: _____

Status: _____ 1st draft / revision

Number of EC for the thesis: _____

Note. 1EC = 28 hours. Minimally 22EC and maximally 28EC, excluding 4EC for the research master thesis proposal. The total number of EC for the Internship and Thesis should be 50EC.

Ethics Review Board (ERB) code: _____

Note. See <https://www.lab.uva.nl/lab/ethics/>

Have your research proposal signed and approved by your supervisor (see Section 9) and submit the signed research proposal and two peer reviews via CANVAS. Please inform by email your supervisor and the secretariat of the research master psychology (thesis-researchmaster-psy-fmg@uva.nl) that you submitted your research proposal.

A response of the Research Master's Thesis Committee can be anticipated within 10 workdays (i.e., two weeks) after handing in the proposal.

2. TITLE AND SUMMARY OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT

2.1 Title

2.2 Summary of proposal – max 150 words

Word count =

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION – max 1200 words (This is a strict limit).

3.1 Prior research

Describe prior research, a comprehensible literature review of the research field, converging upon the research questions.

- a) Describe the state of affairs, including the theoretical framework, in the current research field based on the existing body of literature.
- b) Clarify how the previous research eventuates into the research questions of the current proposal.

3.2 Key questions

Now state the key questions, the essence of the proposal. Here, the intended research should be connected to prior research. Testable research model/ expectations/ hypotheses should be derived from the key question, and the relation between theory and research hypotheses should be clearly specified.

- a) Formulate a general relevant research question based on previous research.
- b) Translate the general research question in a clear manner into a specific research question.
- c) Translate the specific research questions into testable research model/ expectations/ hypotheses.

Word count =

4. PROCEDURE – With a maximum of about 1000 words

4.1 Operationalization

Describe how the research questions are operationalized.

- a) Operationalize the research questions in a clear manner into a research design/strategy.
- b) Describe the procedures for conducting the research and collecting the data.
- c) For methodological and/or simulation projects describe the design of the simulation study.

4.2 Sample characteristics

- a) Indicate, given a power analysis, how many participants will be recruited. Also motivate whether the resulting number is feasible.
- b) If a subset of participants will be excluded from the analysis given their scores on dependent variables, indicate the objective criterion to do so. For example include a phrase like: "Scores on dependent variables exceeding $\pm 3 SD$ of the mean will be excluded from the analysis".
- c) If a subset of participants will be excluded from the analysis given their scores on a manipulation check item, indicate the objective criterion to do so. For example include a phrase like: "Participants scoring 15 or lower on a manipulation checks item, will be excluded from the analysis".
- d) In case of a simulation study, indicate how data will be generated.

4.3 Materials

Indicate which tests, stimuli, equipment, etc. will be used; provide sufficiently elaborate descriptions and motivate your choice. (Always report the psychometric characteristics, such as reliability and validity, if existing tests are used. If new or adapted instruments or test materials (e.g., questionnaires) will be developed, then the new instrument must be independently validated first; only then it can be used as a testing instrument. Exception to this rule is allowed in case of questionnaires that do not contain more than one question (e.g., indicate on a 5-point scale how you feel today). In case of a simulation study 4.3 might be omitted.

4.4 Data analysis

Describe the data preprocessing. Indicate for each research question *separately*, how it is translated into a statistical prediction. For example: "In a repeated measures ANOVA we expect an interaction effect of the between factor x and the within factor y on the dependent variable z. Also indicate how you will correct for multiple comparisons. Only the analyses proposed here can be described as confirmatory analyses in your research report. All other have to be mentioned as exploratory.

4.5 Modifiability of procedure

Is there room for modification of the intended procedure? Evaluation of the proposal by the RMP Thesis Committee is meaningful only if the recommendations that the Committee might have can be implemented. It is therefore required that the intended procedure can be modified before you start gathering data. In situations where procedures or operationalization's or sample characteristics cannot be modified, the Thesis Committee has to be consulted before handing in the research proposal. The committee will consider the eligibility of this project for a research thesis.

Word count = (state number of written words here)

5. INTENDED RESULTS - max 250 words

Clarify what the implication of possible outcomes would be (per hypothesis) for the specific and general research questions as well as for the theory. Address the following in approximately 250 words:

- a) What are the interpretations if the results do match the expectations?
- b) What are the interpretations if the results do not match the expectations?
- c) Are there any alternative interpretations?
- d) Is there any practical or societal relevance? Please explain.

Word count = (state number of written words here)

6. WORK PLAN – max 500 words

Describe how the research project will be executed. Who is doing what and when? Is the planning of the current project realistic, efficient and feasible?

6.1 Time schedule

State the total amount of EC as noted in the thesis contract (26-32EC excl. proposal), 1EC stands for 28 hours work. Present and justify a time schedule in weeks, including your time investment in hours per week. Plan some spare time, and indicate what elements can be cut / reduced if necessary. Provide the intended presentation date.

6.2 Infrastructure

Where will the research take place? How is access to the facilities and materials ensured?

6.3 Data storage

Each researcher needs to comply with the storage protocol of the Research Institute Psychology: <http://psyres.uva.nl/content/scientific-integrity-docs/data-protocol.html>

6.4 Budget

The compensation from the department is max € 55 for each research project. If the total expenditure exceeds the maximum compensation, then specify how the surplus will be financed. The budget may be used for travel expenses, participant payment. Specify the financial ramifications for the intended research.

Another € 25 budget may be used for printing costs (e.g. for the conference poster). Please go to the secretariat of the specialization of your supervisor with your receipts.

Word count = (state number of written words here)

7. REFERENCES

List all cited literature, formatted according to the directions of the APA Manual.

8. FURTHER STEPS

Make sure your supervisor submits an Ethics Checklist for your intended research to the Ethics Review Board of the Department of Psychology at

<https://www.lab.uva.nl/lab/ethics/>

9. SIGNATURES

☐ I hereby declare that both this proposal, and its resulting thesis, will only contain original material and is free of plagiarism (cf. Teaching and Examination Regulation in the research master's course catalogue).

☐ I hereby declare that the result section of the thesis will consist of two subsections, one entitled "confirmatory analyses" and one entitled "exploratory analyses" (one of the two subsections may be empty):

- a) The confirmatory analysis section reports *exactly* the analyses proposed in Section 4 of this proposal
- b) The exploratory analysis section contains not previously specified, and thus exploratory, analyses.

Location:

Student's signature:

Supervisor's signature:
