**GEOG5099M CDAS Dissertation**

**Dissertation Proposal**

**Aims**

This is Dissertation proposal is a key precursor to your dissertation proper. It has two main aims:

1. to give you the opportunity to lay out a discrete piece of research that is separate from but complementary to your PhD.
2. to ensure that your intended area of research is appropriate, viable and appropriately aligned.

This form is also available in electronic format on the module VLE.

In the proposal you should include the following sections / information. The word limit is 1500 words

**Title of Research topic:**

**a) Research Questions and Statement (see note 1)**

**b) Description of research (see note 2)**

**c) Description of Methodology and Data (see note 3)**

**d) Provide a brief timetable for your programme of work (see note 4)**

**e) Assess the potential risks to the successful completion of your research**

You should include the counter measures that you will employ to mitigate against these risks – some risks from a recent proposal to Defra is included by way of example below.

**(see note 5)**

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| **Risk** | **Likelihood** | **Impact** | **Control measures** |
| Delays to commissioning research | Low | High | Any delay to commissioning will impact on completion of the work to time. Work can be commenced by email authorisation, providing that contracts can be completed soon afterwards. |
| Staff become unavailable | Low | Medium | The proposed Project Team has availability to complete the proposed work in the allocated timescale. Work will be planned ahead and alternative staff are available should proposed team members become unavailable. |

**I have completed a Dissertation Risk Assessment and submitted the form on the VLE for this module with this submission**

SIGNATURE:

NAME: DATE:

**Notes**

**Note 1: a) Research Questions and Statement:**

*The research questions and statement should drop out and emerge from the review of the literature and the description of the topic in section b. Essentially this is an evaluation of how well the student has been able to distil the research into a set of solid research questions.*

**Note 2: b) Description of research.**

*This section should describe the background to the research topic, provide a review of the relevant literature (methodological and or previous work in this domain) and should point towards research gaps that will be addressed by this thesis. Essentially the student is being asked to demonstrate their understanding of the topic area, to show that they can summarise a body of research and to develop an implicit rationale for the need for their proposed research.*

**Note 3: c) Description of Methodology and Data.**

*This section should describe the data and methods that will be used as part of this study. The student should show their understanding of how the data analysis will allows the research aims / questions will be answered. The data should exist, it should be available to the study within the proposed timeframe, indications of communications between data holders and students should be included, and a realistic appraisal of contingency data should be considered.*

**Note 4: d) Provide a brief timetable for your programme of work.**

*This should show a realistic plan of work for an August / September submission.*

**Note 5: e) Assess the risks to the successful completion of your research.**

*This should be a general assessment of the possible risks, their likelihood, the strength of their impact and any possible mitigation strategies. Obviously not every eventuality can be considered but general risks to the successful completion of the project should be identified and considered.*

**Appendix One - Coursework Coversheet**

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