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Research Proposal for a Masters Dissertation

This is an **optional** template. Other proposal formats may be acceptable. You do **not** *have* to follow this structure exactly – it will depend on the nature of your project – but you probably **do** have to include much of the detail suggested, however you present it.

**[Obviously, if you *do* use this template, be sure to remove ALL of these guidance notes before you submit it: you don’t want these counting towards your wordcount!]**

*Main text: approximately 3,000 words total, not including abstract, appendices, headings, figures, tables, captions, references, etc. Assume you’re writing the proposal to be read by an experienced computer scientist, but perhaps not one explicitly expert in the field you’re proposing to work in. So you may need to introduce specialist concepts without assuming depth of knowledge. Also think carefully about the structure and flow of this document; it should guide the reader towards, and through, the mechanics of your intended work, whilst clearly arguing its purpose and worth.*

# [Your Name]

## [Your Programme (MSc in …)]

# [Your Project’s Title]

## [Your Project’s Subtitle]

(Optional)

# [Date (of Proposal)]

# Abstract

# Introduction

# Literature Review

*[Note that, in this template, the literature review is presented as a separate section.]*

*A (so far as the word count will permit) comprehensive analysis of what other reputable research sources have to say on your subject area, its background and ‘state-of-the-art’. Also an opportunity to extend and explore critical material introduced in the introduction – but always using credible reference material to support anything you say or claim. This section needs to take the reader to the point of understanding your research hypothesis and questions that follow (and finding them credible and worthwhile).*

*Approximately 1,000 words for this Section 2.*

*Probably needs to be broken down into sections/subsections for each topic to be covered. Entirely dependent on your chosen project, obviously.*

## First Topic

## Second Topic

## Third Topic

:

## … Analysis and Conclusions

*So where has this got you? What does it all mean in the context of your proposed research?*

*(This section, with appropriate expansion, can also form part of your final dissertation’s literature review.)*

# Research Hypothesis and Questions

# Methodology

# Ethical Approval

# References

*In IEEE format. CREDIBLE sources of justification for any claims made anywhere in this document.*

*Most references are likely to be used in the ‘Literature Review’.*

*Word count doesn’t matter here.*

[1] …

[2] …

…

# Appendices