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| RESEARCH STUDY PROPOSAL | |
| **1. Your Name:** | |
| **2. Student Number:** | |
| **3. Email address:** | |
| **4. Research Study Proposal for *(delete as appropriate):*** | |
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| **5.Title or topic area of proposed study** | |
| Broadly which subject area are you looking at? For example:  The Psychological Contract in Public Sector workers; Role of coaching in development of employees; Effects of leadership style on employee performance. | |
| **6. What is the aim of the study? (there should only be 1 Aim)** | |
| **What do you hope to find out?**  **You really need to have done extensive reading within the subject area before you put your proposal together.** Your proposal must convince your tutor that: The research topic is relevant to your degree and has a strategic elementThe research topic is interesting and worthwhile studying, there is a clear rationale (theoretical and organisational)The research objectives are pitched at the right level (they move beyond the purely descriptive, they seek to explore and explain)Your methods are appropriate to your objectives and will allow you to answer themThat your design is ethically sound | |

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| **7. What are the objectives of your study? (there should normally be at least 3 or 4 objectives and these should be SMART)** |
| 1. The steps you are going to take to answer your research questions or a specific list of tasks needed to accomplish the goals of the project 2. Emphasize how the aim is to be accomplished 3. Must be highly focused and feasible 4. Describe clear outcomes 5. Make accurate use of concepts and be sensible and precisely described 6. Usually numbered so that each objective reads as an 'individual' statement to convey your intentions   Usually **three or four** in number. |
| 8. What is the rationale (both theoretical and organisational) for your study? (Approximately 300 words) |
| Introduces the reader to the theoretical and organisational context within which the research is going to take place. It needs to explain WHY the research is necessary. Important material to cover includes the key theoretical framework(s) you are using, definitions of all key terms and important features of the organisational context.  **Why will other people be interested?**  **Why is it of interest to you?** |

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| 9. Brief review of relevant literature (Approximately 500-1000 words) with a minimum of 6 key publications should be cited. (Critically evaluate recent and relevant research that has addressed similar issues to those covered in your objectives) |
| **CRITICALLY reviews key, recent RESEARCH in the area**. The focus is on examining research which has looked at the same theoretical framework(s) you are using and on similar problems to you and NOT on describing the contents of text books. |

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| 10. Provide a concise outline of research methodology, including justification for choices. Please ensure each sub section is completed. (Approximately 400 words) |
| 9.1 Research Strategy  *For example:*  *Is the research applied (specific or general) or theoretical?*  *Is the research completely new, a new application of existing research, a new insight into existing research, or a meta-analysis?*  *What academic disciplines are involved?*  *Is it qualitative, quantitative, or both?*  *Is it multi method, mono method, or mixed method?*  9.2 Research Design  *For example:*  *What data will you collect?*  *How will you collect it?*  *When do you intend to collect it?*  *Where do you intend to collect it?*  *From whom?*   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Participant** | **Data Collection Method** | **Reason for choice of method** | **Population Size** | **Sample Size** | **Sample Criteria** | **Data Collection**  **Date** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  You may be conducting qualitative analyses, quantitative analyses or a mixture of both. Be sure to apply the correct technique and analyse your data to the correct depth. For quantitative data this will almost certainly mean conducting inferential statistics. Materials on using SPSS to do this are available under study materials on blackboard and of course other software packages are available! If you know how to use excel for example then this is fine. It is helpful to include a brief description of what you expect the final thesis to look like in terms of structure and the content of each chapter. |

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| **11. References – a full list of all the sources used in the proposal, presented using the Harvard system of referencing.**  You MUST use the HARVARD referencing system. A useful website to help you with this is <http://www.harvardgenerator.com/> |