

RAD 412

Writing a Research Proposal

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What is research?

- A **process** of arriving at dependable **solutions** to **problems** through the **planned and systematic** collection, analysis and interpretation of data (Osuala, 1993)

What is research?

- Research is a **logical and systematic process** of finding out **solutions** to a **problem** (Uzoagulu, 2011)

Writing a Research Proposal

☐ What is a Research proposal?

- A research proposal is a concise and coherent summary of your proposed research.
- It sets out the central issues or questions that you intend to address.
- It outlines the general area of study within which your research falls, referring to the current state of knowledge and any recent debates on the topic.
- It also demonstrates the originality of your proposed research.

Writing a Research Proposal

- The proposal is the most important document that you submit as part of the application process. It gives you an opportunity to demonstrate that you have the aptitude for postgraduate level research
- The proposal also helps us to match your research interest with an appropriate supervisor

Aims of a Research Proposal

- **Relevance**

Convince the reader that your project is interesting, original and important

- **Context**

Show that you are familiar with the field, you understand the current state of research on the topic, and your ideas have a strong academic basis

Aims of a Research Proposal

- **Approach**

Make a case for your methodology, showing that you have carefully thought about the data, tools and procedures you will need to conduct the research

- **Feasibility**

Confirm that the project is possible within the practical constraints of the programme, institution or funding

Contents of Research Proposal

□ 1. Title

- This is just a tentative title for your intended research.
- You will be able to revise your title during the course of your research

Contents of Research Proposal

□ 2. Abstract

- The proposal should include a concise statement of your intended research of no more than 100 words.
- It could be more depending on the length of the proposal
- This may be a couple of sentences setting out the problem that you want to examine or the central question that you wish to address.

Contents of Research Proposal

□ 3. Research Context

- You should explain the broad background against which you will conduct your research.
- You should include a brief overview of the general area of study within which your proposed research falls, summarising the current state of knowledge and recent debates on the topic.

Contents of Research Proposal

- This will allow you to demonstrate a familiarity with the relevant field as well as the ability to communicate clearly and concisely.

Contents of Research Proposal

□ 4. Research Questions

- The proposal should set out the central aims and questions that will guide your research.
- Before writing your proposal, you should take time to reflect on the key questions that you are seeking to answer.
- Many research proposals are too broad, so reflecting on your key research questions is a good way to make sure that your project is sufficiently narrow and feasible

Contents of Research Proposal

□ 5. Research Methods

- The proposal should outline your research methods, explaining how you are going to conduct your research.
- Your methods may include visiting particular libraries or archives, field work or interviews.
- If your proposed research is library-based, you should explain where your key resources (e.g. law reports, journal articles) are located (in the Law School's library, Westlaw etc).

Contents of Research Proposal

- If you plan to conduct field work or collect empirical data, you should provide details about this (e.g. if you plan interviews, who will you interview? How many interviews will you conduct? Will there be problems of access?). This section should also explain how you are going to analyse your research findings.

Contents of Research Proposal

6. Significance of Research

- The proposal should demonstrate the originality of your intended research.
- You should therefore explain why your research is important (for example, by explaining how your research builds on and adds to the current state of knowledge in the field or by setting out reasons why it is timely to research your proposed topic).

Contents of Research Proposal

□ 7. Bibliography

- The proposal should include a short bibliography identifying the most relevant works for your topic.

In Summary:

Contents

1. Title
2. Introduction (**Chapter One**)
3. Literature review (**Chapter Two**)
4. Research design and methods (**Chapter Three**)
5. Implications and contribution to knowledge
6. Reference list or bibliography
7. Research schedule
8. Budget

End

**Thank you for
listening**