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| School of Geography | 2020/21 |
| University of Leeds | Roger Beecham |
| GEOG5957M |  |

**Dissertation Research Plan**

1. **Aim of the plan**

The dissertation research plan is an opportunity for you to develop your dissertation ideas. It enables your supervisor to give you detailed feedback on your dissertation ideas.

1. **The plans** **are not formally graded** and should be e-mailed to your dissertation supervisor by **15th July**.

**Submission**

**The deadline** for submission of this assignment is 2pm on Thursday 15th July 2021.

1. **Word limit**

There is no formal word-limit, but do please try to keep your research plans to 1-2 sides and following the below template.

1. **Feedback**

Oral feedback will be available during a one-to-one meeting arranged between you and your supervisor.

**The following pages provide a pro-forma which you should use for your dissertation research plan**

**Dissertation title** (this may change as you progress):

**Dissertation aim(s) or research question(s)** (these outline what you want to achieve):

**Research objectives** (the series of steps that you will undertake to address your aim, can be a list of bullet points):

**Why is this topic interesting, relevant and topical**

You should include the following information:

* Explain why you have chosen this topic – why does it interest you?
* Outline the academic interest within this topic area, being sure to make reference to appropriate academic literature.
* If relevant, outline the wider commercial or public interest in this topic area, making reference to company reports/documents or news articles.

**Identify your proposed methods**

You should include the following information:

* Which datasets you will collect (if undertaking primary data collection) or use (if using secondary datasets)? Note, wherever possible we strongly recommend that you use secondary data sources given the aims and objectives of your programme of study. Include details on (as relevant for your study): how you will collect/access these data, their format, sample size, geographical scale, temporal coverage etc.
* Which tools/techniques/methods/software (as appropriate) you will use to analyse these data.
* Explain how you will analyse these data and why these are the best methods to use.
* Describe how this approach will help you address your research aims and objectives.

**Ethical approval:** You may be required to apply for ethical approval if your research involves working with vulnerable participants (including children, adults with mental illness, vulnerable groups such as the homeless, prisoners or young offenders). Note that this is \*\*highly unlikely\*\* for a CAMS Dissertation. If you plan to work with any of these groups then you must consult the University Guidance available at: <http://ris.leeds.ac.uk/info/70/ethics/100/does_my_project_need_ethical_approval> and discuss with your supervisor. N.B. This module is covered by a ‘block approval’ for routine work with secondary data relating to individuals, and for consumer surveys and interviews (primary data collection), as long as you are not targeting any of the groups of individuals outlined above.

Based on your project ideas outlined in this document, do you anticipate requiring ethical approval?

Yes/No (please delete as appropriate).