

RESEARCH PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

A research proposal is a required document as part of an application for admission to a postgraduate research degree at the University of Sydney. It is necessary to prepare a proposal that clearly summarises your proposed research project.

The proposal should be prepared by you and reviewed by your supervisor(s) before submission with your application for admission. If you are admitted, this initial research proposal will be used as a basis for preparation of your final research program in your first year of candidature.

Below are the guidelines to help you prepare your initial research proposal for admission. Requirements of faculties may vary so please contact your supervisor(s) or the relevant Postgraduate Research Coordinator for more information.

CONTENT	DESCRIPTION
MINIMUM – MAXIMUM LENGTH	Up to 2000 words.
PROJECT TITLE	Working title for the project.
SUPERVISOR NAME(S)	Names of supervisor(s).
PROPOSED MODE OF RESEARCH	Describe your mode of research. For example, creative work, laboratory/field research, clinical investigations, archive/library study.
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	What are the overall aims of the work? What objectives are necessary to meet the aims?
SYNOPSIS	Briefly describe the key aspects of what you will be investigating.
BACKGROUND	Brief review of literature in the area of interest. Describe what research lays the groundwork for your topic.
EXPECTED RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION	Why is the topic/creative work important? Describe how the research may be novel and its impact on the discipline.
THE PROPOSED METHODOLOGY	Approach or methodology to be used in the research, the materials/equipment you intend to use, your space/laboratory/studio requirements.
WORK PLAN	An initial plan for completion with annual milestones (eg. over 3 years).
RESOURCES	Provide details of major resources required for you to carry out your research project. What significant resources are required for the success of your proposed project? (eg. travel, equipment).
REFERENCES	A short bibliography of the cited literature.