Research Document Template

Title Page

Include:

- Title of the research document

- Student name(s) and student number(s)

- Project name / company / client

- Semester and Learning Outcome (Semester 2 – LO5)

- Date of submission

1. Introduction (± ½ page)

Introduce the context of your project and explain why research is necessary to support decision-making.

Briefly describe:

- the project context and problem area,

- why this problem cannot be solved by intuition or assumptions alone,

- how research will support informed project or design decisions.

Make clear that this research document is decision-oriented, not only descriptive.

2. Main Research Question (RQ)

Formulate one clear main research question that reflects the central decision or problem of your project.

The main research question should:

- be open-ended,

- guide the entire research process,

- directly support project or design decisions.

Example:
How can we choose the most suitable frontend framework for building a stable and maintainable dashboard for Project X?

3. Sub-Research Questions

Break down the main research question into several focused sub-research questions.

Each sub-question should:

- address one specific aspect of the problem,
- contribute directly to answering the main research question,
- be answerable using research methods.

Avoid vague, overlapping, or purely descriptive questions.

4. Research Strategy and Methodology (DOT Framework)

Explain how each sub-research question is answered using the DOT framework.

For each sub-question, specify:

- the DOT framework strategie(s) (Library, Field, Lab, Workshop, Showroom),
- the research method(s) used,
- why are these methods suitable for this sub-question?

Example Table

Sub-question	DOT Domain	Method(s)	Why this method fits
RQ1	Field, Workshop	Interviews, requirement analysis	Identifies real user needs
RQ2	Library	Literature study	Provides reliable background
RQ3	Showroom	Benchmarking	Enables objective comparison

After the table, explain (4–6 sentences):

- why these strategies are appropriate,
- how they support reliable answers,
- how they connect to the research questions.

5. Findings (per Sub-Research Question)

For each sub-research question, use the same structure to ensure clarity and consistency.

Structure for each RQ:

1. <u>Findings</u>

   o Present analysed results (not just copied information).

   o Support claims with sources or evidence.

   o If evidence is provided in a separate file, clearly explain what it shows and why it is relevant.

2. <u>Mini-Conclusion</u>

   o Clearly answer the sub-question (3–5 sentences).

   o Explain how the answer contributes to project decisions.

3. <u>Project Implication</u>

   o Explain how the findings are used in your project (e.g. design choice, technical decision).

Important:
Code snippets, screenshots, or URLs must always be accompanied by explanation, evaluation, and reflection. They are not sufficient on their own.

6. General Conclusion (± ½ page)

Combine all mini-conclusions and provide a clear answer to the Main Research Question.

Include:

- overall insights from the research,

- the recommended decision and justification,

- how this supports project goals,

- remaining risks or limitations.

7. Reflection on the Research Process (± ½ page)

Reflect on how you conducted the research.

Discuss:

- which strategies and methods you used and why,

- what worked well,

- challenges encountered,

- what you learned about doing research,

- what you would improve in the next project.

This section focuses on learning and professional growth.

8. References (APA Style)

List all sources using APA guidelines.

Use reliable sources such as:

- academic literature,

- professional documentation,

- expert interviews,

- reputable industry reports.

APA guide: https://apastyle.apa.org/

9. Appendix (Optional)

Include supporting materials if relevant:

- interview summaries,

- detailed tables,

- raw data,

- screenshots.

Note on Portfolio Context

This research document is **one component of the portfolio evidence for Learning Outcome 5 (Professional Standard)**. Other LO5 evidence may include project artifacts, communication examples, and reflections.