

GUIDELINES TO PREPARING RESEARCH PROPOSALS

This guideline is intended for candidates applying to pursue their postgraduate degrees by research. Candidates are required to submit a 2000-word research proposal, which should comprise the following elements:

Background or a brief literature review on the research topic

- Describe the current state of the art. Why is the research needed? Outline previous work in this field. How will the results fill this need and how will the results be beneficial? To what extent does this research build upon or add to existing research.

Objective of study

- Describe the objectives that influence the research. May be stated as questions which the research seeks to answer or as hypotheses to be tested.

Scope of study

- Be specific in what you want to conduct research on, and try to draw a boundary around the area of study that you think you can finish within the time allowed.

Methodology

- Describe the design or procedural plan to be followed or methods to be used in the study such as library research, lab work, field work, historical documentary, interview, survey, evaluation and analysis, pitfalls that may be encountered and limitations to proposed procedures.

Work schedule

- Please provide a detailed Gantt chart, stating the expected commencement date of research, and the expected date of the submission of the final thesis.
- When preparing a framework for the research, please include time estimates for the completion of its various phases bearing in mind the maximum periods of candidacy

Equipment required (where applicable)

- Any special equipment, techniques, literature or statistical advice needed?

Estimated costs (where applicable)

- Please provide a brief estimate of costs involved in completing the research.

Brief bibliography or references

- A familiarity with the literature in the field should be shown.