



CENTRE FOR AFRICA STUDIES

GUIDELINES FOR PRE-PROPOSAL

PH.D. APPLICATION

The prospective student should submit the following:

1. Credentials (e.g. copies of degree certificates & academic records) as per the attached application forms and checklist.
2. Submission of a research essay (pre-proposal) (10 to 12 pages excluding bibliography; approx. 15 pages in total) which will provide us with insight into the student's chosen field within Africa Studies and his/her specific interest within the field. This document will form the foundation from where the final research proposal will develop.

The pre-proposal document should address the following:

- Significance/background or rationale for choosing this topic. What benefits or contributions may result from the research? Remember that PhD study should make a clear theoretical and empirical (e.g. grassroots and/or policy-oriented) contribution to the area of study.
- A clear research thesis, problem statement or formulation of the research question. What is your argument?
- Literature review (parts of this could also be integrated into, for example, the section on the motivation for the study).
- Clearly outlined primary goals as well as some secondary objectives.
- Detailed methodology section outlining key methodological approaches and specific research methods for both data collection and analysis.
- Proposed chapter layout
- Bibliography

Once we've received your submission, your application will be evaluated in totality. Should you be successful, then you will be registered and we will engage you in an in-depth discussion from where a more specific frame of reference may evolve for the envisaged proposal.

Thank you

Dr Stephanie Cawood
Programme Director