

**"[Click here and type preliminary title of research proposal]"**

**"[Click here & type Name & Surname]"**

Research proposal for the degree of  
*Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)/Masters*  
at the University of the Free State

**"[Click here & type Date]"**

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## Style guide

Use 'normal' margins in page layout; Times New Roman (TNR) font 12pt; justified; 1.5 line spacing; indented quotations (longer than three lines) should be in TNR, 11pt, justified, single line spacing, and 1cm indented on right and left sides; footnotes must be avoided, but if needed, should be TNR 10pt with single line spacing; use the APA referencing guide: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/07/> (no deviations please!!!).

Page numbers: bottom centre of page

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

List all acronyms and abbreviations used in the proposal. Only use acronyms and abbreviations for terms appearing more than three times in the text.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Start by giving an overview of the general subject or study area and identify the discipline(s)/ areas/ fields within which it falls. From this you can identify the problem you wish to research. Also state the importance of the problem or the reason which necessitates the research. Indicate how your research would contribute to the solution of the problem.

## **RESEARCH QUESTION / HYPOTHESIS**

Provide a clear statement of the problem. This should take the form of one main question, which be broken down into not more than 4 sub-questions. Outline the aims and objectives of your research. The problem statement should provide a synopsis of the purpose of the study, briefly define and delimit the specific area of the research, identify the unit of analysis in the study, and foreshadow the hypotheses to be tested or the questions to be raised.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Outline, preliminary, the methodology to be used in your research. You must be able to show a clear understanding of the methodologies most suitable for your research, as well as a justification why they are most appropriate. In addition, you must indicate methods that will be used for data collection, as well as proposed data analysis approaches and techniques.

## **JUSTIFICATION OF THE RESEARCH**

Provide a statement as to why research of the problem is important and what new insights might be found. What contribution would the research make to the relevant study areas and enrich academic knowledge.

## **PRELIMINARY LITERATURE REVIEW**

In this section you must give account of what has been published on your topic by accredited scholars and researchers. This should not take the form of a mere summary of related works but should rather depict what knowledges and ideas have been established on the topic, as well as what their strengths and weaknesses are. You must indicate whether others have studied the same or similar problems and how your research is original.

## **LIST OF REFERENCES**

Include a preliminary list of possible references and articles to be used during your research. This is not your final list of reference but must indicate the amount and quality of data and previous research available to you.