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**Adelaide Graduate Centre**  
Level 6, 115 Grenfell Street  
The University of Adelaide  
SA 5005  
AUSTRALIA



# Guide to Writing a Research Proposal

## For Higher Degree by Research Applicants

Please read the “Guide to Writing a Research Proposal for Higher Degree by Research Applicants” before completing this template.

Structure your Research Proposal based on the headings provided below, use a clear and legible font (e.g. Arial, size 12) and observe the page/word limit:

**A 2,500 word limit (5 pages) applies, excluding Bibliography/ References. 1000 words are normally sufficient. If space provided is insufficient please attach a separate sheet(s).**

Name	
Empl ID (if applicable)	
Proposed School/Discipline	
Word Count	

### 1. Project (research topic) title

Provide a short descriptive title of no more than 20 words.

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### 2. Project (research topic) summary

In no more than 100 words, intelligible to a reader who is not a specialist in this field, summarize the aims, significance and expected outcomes of your proposed research.

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### **3. Project (research topic) details**

Provide a brief but comprehensive statement, following the headings provided below. Please number the pages. You are urged to avoid the use of jargon and to express your arguments clearly and concisely.

#### **3.1 Introductory background**

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#### **3.2 Research questions**

This section should explain the research question and may include the hypothesis or problem to be addressed.

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### **3.3 Aims/Objectives of the project**

This section should explain how the problem is to be addressed.

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### **3.4 Significance/Contribution to the discipline**

This section will normally justify the project from a review of the literature on the topic.

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### **3.5 Theoretical framework and methods**

This section may include a discussion of the sources to be consulted.

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#### 4 Research plan and timeline and contents of thesis/submission

Please provide a plan of stages of your research development and thesis writing with a time-line of proposed goals for your program. A [Gantt chart or Completion Plan](#) is useful in illustrating the various stages and activities of research, in terms of a schedule to meet time-lines.

#### 5 References cited/Bibliography of planned reading

Please provide one or both of the following in an appropriate and consistent referencing style:

- A list of the scholarly references cited in the proposal
- A bibliography of planned reading

#### Further Information

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