



Thesis Synopsis Submission Format



In order to write your thesis proposal, please respect this format and respond to each section in order. This thesis proposal is intended to specify what the student wishes to investigate, why this is worth studying, how the investigation will unfold, and why this is an appropriate approach to the investigation. This research proposal should be around 3 to 5 pages.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

- **Title:** Provide a brief and meaningful title to your research project.
- **Background:** the introduction should provide a description of the **background of the topic** and the basic facts that **define the issues** that the thesis will address, **and why it is important**.
- **Importance of the study:** Make sure to highlight the **importance of the study** by describing the potential impact it could have on participants, on the field, and the existing knowledge base.

SECTION 2: PROBLEM STATEMENT

The problem statement provides a **clear and succinct description of the issues** that need to be addressed. What is the specific problem in this area of research that you will be addressing (e.g., lack of insight into a topic, low performance ...)?

In general, there are **two elements to each problem**. The first is a general statement that tells the reader exactly what the research is supposed to investigate. The second component is more specific. Often it is stated as a series of empirical questions that reflect the conceptual framework developed from the literature review or selected from an author's published work.

SECTION 3: REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

This section is a **critical review of the literature** that presents the most relevant material to the topic under study. The review should be organized conceptually or thematically, which sets up a framework that can serve as a guide for the research investigation.

SECTION 4: RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS AND OBJECTIVES

Lists the statement to be tested for possible acceptance or rejection.

Objectives provide a **list of goals** that will be achieved through the study - What are the benefits/impacts (e.g., better understanding, improved productivity...) that will be generated if the research problem is solved?

SECTION 5: METHODOLOGY AND PROCEDURES

This section showcases the methodological approach of the study:

- **Research Design-** describe and justify the design of the thesis (e.g. experimental, quasi-experimental, survey, case study, phenomenology, ethnography, descriptive, interpretative etc.)
- **Location and Participant Selection:** describe the geographical choice as well as who will participate in your research.
- **Data Collection:** This section specifies the instrument that is to be used to collect the data and the procedures that will be followed (quantitative or qualitative studies). For quantitative studies, if students develop their questionnaire, it must be pilot tested and checked for content and face validity and also reliability. For qualitative studies, students must describe the questions they plan to ask in an interview or the types of items they will look for in observation.
- **Data Analysis:** The proposal should describe how the student plans to analyze the data to generate answers to the research question. Students should consider what data elements are likely to answer each of the empirical questions and what they could do with the data to get an answer.
- **Reliability and Validity/ Establishing Credibility-** describe the steps that will be taken to improve the quality of the data and the knowledge claims derived from the data for generalisation
- **Scopes and limitations of the study:** No research study can encompass all relevant factors, sites, people or issues related to a topic or study. This section is about defining the parameters and limitations within which the study is conducted. In quantitative studies, this includes the external and internal reliability and validity of the work. In qualitative research, these parameters involve a discussion of preconceptions, credibility, trustworthiness, and the epistemological position of the researcher.

SECTION 6: FEASIBILITY

This section states:

- **The cost factor:** All necessary resources required to complete the study should be listed to generate an expected expense.
- **The time factor:** List all stages of the study and state what needs to be done at each stage and how much time is required to complete each stage
- **Accessibility of data:** State how much travelling is required or how much time is needed to secure resources

Also, mention the ethical considerations in the study.

SECTION 7: REFERENCES

All factual material that is not original must be accompanied by a reference to its source.