

Research Proposal Guidelines

Kathmandu School of Law, Nepal

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WHAT IS A RESEARCH PROPOSAL?

A research proposal is an outline of the research project for your idea or questions you seek to answer. It provides the relevance of the research you wish to undertake and how it adds to the existing literature in the discipline you choose. It provides the details as to how you would proceed with the research you intend to undertake.

“until you read, you will never know what to write”

IMPORTANCE

Your research proposal provides an opportunity for the research department to identify and assess the originality and feasibility of the project. It also helps in narrowing down potential supervisor for the research. It provides you a plan of action for your research which is a reference point for what you intend to do and how you intend to do it.

LENGTH OF THE PROPOSAL

The research proposal should not be more than 2500 words in case you are submitting it as a part of final year coursework but it also depends on the faculty or the department you are approaching and they may have different requirements. It is always helpful in getting attention to your research idea if you are to present concrete ideas in precise manner.

REFERENCING STYLE

You should use the latest style guide version provided on the institution's website.

WHO CAN YOU APPROACH WHILE DEVELOPING THE PROPOSAL?

You should identify any suitable supervisor with experience in the area of research undertaken by you. After that you should reach out to the potential supervisor and discuss your proposal. The supervisor will then be able to **provide** you with suggestions and input on your idea, scope, and methodology for the research project. While submitting the proposal to the institution you should provide three possible supervisors for the research from the institution. It is not necessary to reach out the supervisors in advance but is preferable.

WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL? (STRUCTURE)

- **Title** – It should reflect the proposed research.
- **Abstract/Synopsis** – A clear summary of your research project in not more than 200 words describing the issues and expected outcome of research. If you write a good abstract that provides precise and clear overview, it is possible that the supervisor or reader is going to be interested in the research you propose.
- **Aims and Objectives** – What is the aim of your research and what are you trying to achieve by doing the said research. It should describe in brief the potential outcome you plan to achieve through your research. You should think about the potential outcome of your research if you were successful – that is your aim. Make sure that this is a clearly focused statement. In the objective you should provide the exact issues intended by you through the research. You should provide them in points detailing '1', '2' & '3'.

- **Background** – It should detail brief overview of your research area and why you have chosen the topic. How the research proposed in relevant to the current environment. Relating to your research you provide relevant research literature available to you, highlighting the gaps in the literature. Provide a context to the research depicting the reader your knowledge of the subject and the need to do your research.
- **Research Question(s)**
You should formulate these clearly, giving an explanation as to what problems and issues are to be explored and why they are worth exploring.
- **Methodology** – In this you do not need to write detailed methods you are proposing to conduct the research, but it should demonstrate the framework you would like to propose for the research. Highlight in brief the methodology you want to adopt and why it fits the research you are proposing. It should provide an idea into the thought put in by you towards your research.
- **Research Plan** – It is critical to completing your research and you should provide the outline of your research completion. It indicates the timeframe in which you intend to achieve your objectives.
- **Resource Requirements** – Provide an outline of access to resources, travel, or other requirements your will require during the project and why you would need the particular resource? This is not a necessary requirement to be outlined in the proposal but if you have special requirements, then it helps you prepare for the research in advance.
- **Bibliography** – It should list out all the references that you have made throughout your research proposal. It should not contain resources that have not be used in the proposal.

- Abstract should be concise and precise with clarity of what you are proposing.
- Research idea and question should be clearly laid out. Research proposed should be doable and not aim of unreasonable objectives.
- Provide evidence of gaps in the literature for the research area proposed. It should reflect the importance of proposed research.
- Contact potential supervisor and get feedback for your research, not a prerequisite but always helpful.
- Provide reason and arguments as to why you want to do the research. The proposal should reflect your passion and enthusiasm for the research.
- Ensure the proposal is in properly cited and formatted as per the requirements.
- Ensure no plagiarism in the proposal as the institution puts all proposals through plagiarism detecting software's (Quetext and Grammarly).



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HOW WILL YOUR RESEARCH PROPOSAL BE STRONG?

Your proposal has a direct impact on your research and your ability impress the supervisor of your choice. The following will help to strengthen the quality of your proposal: