

# Research Proposal Template

A **research proposal** describes what you will investigate, why it's important, and how you will conduct your research. A research proposal serves as a blueprint and guide for your research plan, helping you get organized and feel confident in the path forward you choose to take.

**Format:** line spacing 1.5, Times New Roman font size 12 (please do not change the provided font). Graphs and figures should be used only when necessary. You should also include a table of contents and an abstract to help your reader navigate your work. Accepted formats are Word or PDF only.

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## **Title Page**

**(Replace this line by the title of your project)**

Research Project Proposal

Name of the researcher: last, first name

Name of the local supervisor: last, first name

Date of submission: dd-mm-yyyy

Name of the institution and department:

## Introduction:

Make sure it concisely explains what you want to do and why.

Your introduction should:

- Introduce your topic
- Give necessary background and context
- Outline your problem statement and research questions
  - You may include the problem statement and research questions in separate sections as below

To guide your introduction, include information about:

- Who could have an interest in the topic (e.g., scientists, policymakers)
- How much is already known about the topic
- What is missing from this current knowledge
- What new insights your research will contribute
- Why you believe this research is worth doing

## Problem Statement

## Purpose of the research

## Literature Review:

It's important to demonstrate that you're familiar with the most important research on your topic. A strong literature review shows your reader that your project has a solid foundation in existing knowledge or theory. It also shows that you're not simply repeating what other people have already done or said, but rather using existing research as a jumping-off point for your own. In this section, share exactly how your project will contribute to ongoing conversations in the field by:

- Comparing and contrasting the main theories, methods, and debates
- Examining the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches
- Explaining how will you build on, challenge, or synthesize prior scholarship

## Research Question(s) and/ or Hypotheses

## Research Design, Methods and Procedures:

Following the literature review, restate your main objectives. This brings the focus back to your own project. Next, your research design or methodology section will describe your overall approach, and the practical steps you will take to answer your research questions. [(**Research type**: quantitative/qualitative; descriptive/correlational/experimental; original data collection/primary or secondary source analysis), **Study Population and Sampling**, Instruments, **Research methods**]

## Ethical considerations:

## Institutional Framework:

(University or other, research funding, role of the Candidate within the research project, situation of the Project within a larger research project, position and role of the Local Supervisor; all participating parties in the study and their role need to be identified)

## Time Table of the Project:

(Estimation, subdivided into months, **covering the entire period of the year(s)**. Be as brief and concise as possible. Confirm that your project is feasible within the timeline of your program or funding deadline (**Achievability**).

Time Period	Activities/ Procedures
Jan – Mar 1 <sup>st</sup> year	[if applicable, depending on your intended starting date]
Apr – Jun 1 <sup>st</sup> year	[if applicable, depending on your intended starting date]
Jul – Sep 1 <sup>st</sup> year	[if applicable, depending on your intended starting date]
Oct – Dec 1 <sup>st</sup> year	

## Expected Research Budgeting:

(As detailed as possible, including indications on which research costs will be covered by whom, e.g. personnel, transport, material etc.)

Item	Estimated Costs (in Euro/Dollar)	Covered How/ By Whom
Total		

## Expected Limitations:

## Significance of the Study (Contribution to knowledge):

To finish your proposal on a strong note, explore the potential implications of your research for your field. Emphasize again what you aim to contribute and why it matters.

## References:

Last but not least, your research proposal must include correct citations for every source you have used, compiled in a reference list. To create citations quickly and easily, you can use our free APA citation generator.

**Note:** AI tools can be helpful resources when brainstorming and outlining your research proposal. However, it's important to use these tools responsibly to avoid academic dishonesty. Your university or institution may use an AI detector to detect generative AI content.