

# Research Proposal Template

Proposed title of the project

Your name

Your supervisor's name

Programme

Department

Institution

Date

## Table of Contents

### **Introduction**

The introduction should include the following elements:

#### **Background and Context**

Lead the reader into the topic and scope of your research.

#### **Problem Statement**

Describe the theoretical or practical research problem that you want to address. What is already known about the problem? What is missing from current knowledge?

#### **Research Questions**

State the specific question(s) that you aim to answer.

#### **Relevance and Importance of the Research**

Make it clear what new insights you will contribute, who they are relevant to, and why the research is worth doing.

## **Literature Review**

The literature review summarizes, compares and critiques the most relevant scholarly sources on the topic. There are many different ways to structure a literature review, but it should explore:

### **Key Concepts, Theories and Studies**

Compare, contrast, and establish the theories and concepts that will be most important for your project.

### **Key Debates and Controversies**

Identify points of conflict and situate your own position.

### **Gaps in Existing Knowledge**

Show what is missing and how your project will fit in.

## **Research Design and Methods**

Here you should explain your approach to the research and describe exactly what steps you will take to answer your questions.

### **Research design**

Explain how you will design the research. Qualitative or quantitative? Original data collection or primary/secondary sources? Descriptive, correlational or experimental?

### **Methods and Sources**

Describe the tools, procedures, participants and sources of the research. When, where and how will you collect, select and analyze data?

### **Practical Considerations**

Address any potential obstacles, limitations and ethical or practical issues. How will you plan for and deal with problems?

### **Implications and Contributions to Knowledge**

Finish the proposal by emphasizing why your proposed project is important and what it will contribute to practice or theory.

#### **Practical Implications**

Will your findings help improve a process, inform policy, or make a case for concrete change?

#### **Theoretical Implications**

Will your work help strengthen a theory or model, challenge current assumptions, or create a basis for further research?

## References

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