



GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PROPOSAL

1. Title Page

The title page should include the following:

- (1) Candidate's name (as registered with AeU)
- (2) Student ID number
- (3) Postgraduate research programme
- (4) Title of research proposal
- (5) Name of supervisor
- (6) Date

2. Table of Contents (Refer to the Research Proposal template)

The table of contents should be easy to read and consistent. The title of each chapter should be written in full capital with no terminal punctuation.

The title of a subdivision of a chapter or section should be in small letters, with the exception of the first letter of significant words.

3. Proposal

(Font size should be 12 pitch for the texts in Times New Roman. All text must be double-spaced and justified. Each paragraph should be indented.)

(1) Content of Proposal

For reasons of efficiency and convention, the research proposal contains the first three chapters of the thesis (Introduction, Literature Review & Methodology), but in a less detailed form. The research proposal shall normally be about 25-30 pages. The content of the research proposal needs to address the following elements, generally in the order as indicated.

(2) Synopsis of the Research Proposal

This section should provide an overview (about 500 words) of the research you intend to do, why it is important and what makes you think that the research will make a useful contribution.

(3) Focus of the study

What is that you intend to investigate or inquire into? This section describes the statements of problem (e.g. why is there a need for this to be done; How widespread is the belief or perception that the area is problematic?), the research questions, research hypotheses, theoretical and conceptual framework, and significance of the study (in terms of theoretical and practical contributions; intended or potential beneficiaries of this research).

(4) Literature Review and Scope of Research Project

This section should indicate that you have a good working knowledge of the literature on research, theory, practice, and research methods germane to your research. In particular you should discuss the current state of knowledge and its present limitations, how your research study will fit into the broad framework of theory and knowledge in your field of study, and how to justify the proposed methodology.

(5) Research Methodology

Depending on the discipline and research approach, this section will describe how do you intend to go about conducting your research? What is the methodological framework? What are the main techniques of data collection (e.g. survey, interviews, observation, focus groups, etc)? You need to justify your choice of methodology. What are the anticipated difficulties and alternative approaches to overcome them. Any progress made in the pilot study or first year of study should be reported here.

4. References

Reference citations are based on the editorial styles of the American Psychological Association (APA).

Kindly refer to “AeU Style Guide for Graduate Students using American Psychological Association (APA) Format” at

<http://library.aeu.edu.my/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/APA-Citation-Format.pdf>

5. Appendices/ Supplementaries

Specific items which were not included in the main body of the text should be put in the Appendix /Supplementary Section.

6. Research Plan / Timeline

Please provide a research action plan or timeline detailing the events, timing and intervention strategies up to the submission of thesis or dissertation. Milestone against which progress can be monitored should be identified.

7. Capability of Researcher

Candidates must demonstrate his/her research capabilities by providing details on academic background and experience in relation to research, ability to access to data and relevant bodies, relationship to or position in organization / industry where the research will be conducted, etc.