



**UNIVERSITY OF  
ZULULAND**

*A NODE FOR AFRICAN THOUGHT*

## **RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

**With the provisional title:**

*(Is it clearly formulated, and does it align with the research objectives/ aims / problem statement /research question?)*

**For the degree of**

**In the field of XXXX**

**FACULTY OF XXXX**

**Student name:**

**Student number:**

**Current highest qualification:**

**Supervisor:**

**Co-Supervisor:**

**Year:**

**Estimated date of submission:**

**Please refer to this embedded proposal guide when writing your proposal.  
Delete it from this proposal before submission.**



02 - Research  
Proposal Guide - 2021

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

(NB: See the attached guide for clues or hints on how to write the introduction. (Introduce the document; introduction must give a concise orientation of study) (a) Dedicate two or three sentences to explaining your research topic, and the aspect of the topic that your research places focus on, and why it is important. And, (b) Dedicate three or four sentences to mapping out and describing the structure of your research proposal.)

DELETE ALL ORANGE instructions found in this template.

# 2 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

(NB: See the attached guide for clues or hints on how to write the background). (a) Discuss the topic of your study, and why is this topic important to investigate? (b) What is known about this topic currently, i.e., before you start your investigation? What are the under-investigated areas? (d) How will my study advance new knowledge, or new ways of understanding, or new practice?)

# 3 PROBLEM STATEMENT AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS

## 3.1 Problem Statement

(NB: See the attached guide for clues or hints on how to write the research problem.) (Is this clearly delimited and well-focused and aligned with research background, and pave the way for formulating the aims /objectives/ Research Questions?)

## 3.2 Research question(s)

(NB: See the attached guide for clues or hints on how to write the research question. Pose your research questions clearly and consciously. Three for Masters, four for PHD.)

# 4 RESEARCH AIM AND OBJECTIVES (or HYPOTHESES, where applicable)

## 4.1 Research Aim

(NB: See the attached guide for clues or hints on how to write the research aim.) (Does it align clearly with the Title, problem statement / Questions?) (a) Stem (i.e., the word "To...") (b) Verb (i.e., an action word) E.g.: "explore", "analyse", "describe", "explain", "assess", "compare" etc. (c) Main concepts (i.e., constructs being investigated).

## 4.2 Research objectives (or Hypotheses)

(NB: See the attached guide for clues or hints on how to write the research objectives. Objectives clear & achievable? Three for Masters and four for PHD)

# 5 CONTRIBUTION OF THE STUDY

(NB: See the attached guide for clues or hints on how to write the contribution: (to Knowledge (Theory) and Practice / Policy). (In the case of a Doctoral study this must be clearly stated.) The study of significant value (for level of degree)?

# 6 LITERATURE REVIEW

(NB: See the attached guide for clues or hints on how to write the literature review. (Use appropriate headings and subheadings based on your topic and research questions). (Most relevant and recent publications?) Reviewed literatures adequate or representative of what is available? (e.g., 90% of the review should cover the empirical literature, and remaining percentage covering theoretical literature)

## **7 THEORETICAL (or CONCEPTUAL) FRAMEWORK**

NB: See the attached guide for clues or hints on how to write the framework. (You must place your study within the context of prevailing theories or concepts. Pull together the set of concepts that can best help you to explain the findings of your study. Ensure that the concepts you pull together can explain the anticipated issues raised in your research questions/ objectives)

## **8 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

(NB. Address each of the following. Each choice or decision must be appropriately justified. See the attached Guide for clarification)

### **8.1 Research philosophy**

### **8.2 Research approach**

### **8.3 Research design**

### **8.4 Study context and population (where applicable)**

### **8.5 Study sample and sample size**

### **8.6 Sampling method(s) and procedures**

### **8.7 Data collection**

#### ***8.7.1 Design and description of instruments***

NB. Research Questions must be designed to minimise negative feelings as much as possible as applicable.

#### ***8.7.2 Data collection procedure(s)***

#### ***8.7.3 Piloting of instruments (where applicable)***

### **8.8 Data analysis method(s) and procedures**

NB: See the attached guide for clues or hints on how to write the research methodology.

## **9 RESEARCH QUALITY: ETHICAL AND SAFETY ISSUES**

(NB. What are the risks in terms of ethical sensitivities, health and safety concerns and have they been taken care of? See the attached Guide for assistance. Address each of the subheadings below. State whether this study is ethical or can it be ethical.)

### **9.1 Research quality**

#### ***9.1.1 Reliability and Validity of the data collection instrument (if quantitative)***

#### ***9.1.2 Measures to ensure trustworthiness of data (if qualitative)***

(NB. See the attached Guide for how to discuss this section. Mixed methods study should address both)

### **9.2 Ethical and safety considerations**

#### ***9.2.1 Informed consent***

#### ***9.2.2 Debriefing***

#### ***9.2.3 Withdrawal from investigation***

(NB. Address this in consent letter. Consent form must indicate participant may stop responding or withdraw anytime if affected?)

#### ***9.2.4 Protection of participants***

### 9.2.5 Confidentiality and anonymity

### 9.2.6 Data storage

(NB. See the attached Guide. Example: ways to consider - password protection; encrypt cloud-based storage; stored in a locked cabinet, etc)

## 10 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

NB: See the attached guide for clues or hints on how to write the statement on intellectual property.

## 11 RESOURCES REQUIRED AND PROJECT PLAN

NB: See the attached guide for clues or hints on how to write the resource requirements. (Design a project plan for your study, and cost the activities)

### 11.1 Resources required

### 11.2 Budget

Budget (if applicable) is reasonable and matches the study? (Table format)

### 11.3 Research process - Gantt chart

(below is an example – please delete and develop your own)

Table 1: xxxxxx

No.	Milestones and Dates	May 2022	August 2022	September 2022	October 2022	November 2022	Jan - March 2023	April- May 2023	June - July 2023	August 2023	September 2023	October 2023	November 2023
1	Proposal development												
2	Submit proposal												
3	Receive feedback and Corrections												
4	Submit a proposal for review												
5	Receive feedback and Corrections												
6	Present proposal to department /faculty												
7	HDC approval												
8	Thesis / Dissertation development												
	- Further Literature review												
	- Conceptual framework												
	- Data collection												
	- Data analysis/ methodology												
	- Discussion, conclusion & recommendations												
	- Thesis submission for examination												

## 12 FEASIBILITY OF THE STUDY

(Is it feasible in terms of knowledge and skills needed, resources and timeline for completion?)

## 13 DISSEMINATION PLAN

NB: See the attached guide for clues or hints on how to write the dissemination plan. Book, book chapters, conference, or papers to be published indicated? Access to post-study information given to community (if applicable)? Reciprocity and adequacy: Is there a clear benefit shown for the university and the participating partners/ community? (how do we give back to the community engaged) (Is there a plan to give back?)

## 14 PROPOSED CHAPTER DIVISION

(See 3.15.2 of proposal guide) (Has this been presented, and does it represent a well-focused and integrated whole?)

## 15 REFERENCES

(Use the APA or Harvard format) (Zotero is recommended)

## 16 CANDIDATE'S DECLARATION

(Has it been signed?)

- (a) I acknowledge that I have read and understood the University policies and rules, applicable to postgraduate research, and I certify that I have, to the best of my knowledge and belief, complied with their requirements.
- (b) I declare that this proposal, save for the supervisory guidance received, is the product of my own work and effort. I have, to the best of my knowledge and belief, acknowledged all sources of information in line with normal academic conventions. **No part of my work has been generated by Artificial Intelligence Software, and I have not cited any such software as a source.**
- (c) I further certify that the proposed research will be original, and that the materials to be submitted for examination have not been previously submitted, either in whole or in part, for a degree at this or any other university.
- (d) I have subjected this document to the University text-matching or similarity checking procedures and I consider it to be free of any form of plagiarism.

Signature:  
Print Name:

Date:

## 17 SUPERVISOR(S) DECLARATION

(Has it been signed?)

- (a) I testify that the work produced has been subjected to the University text-matching or similarity checking procedures and I consider it to be free of any form of plagiarism, and the product is a reflection of my supervisee's own work and effort, under my/our guidance.
- (b) I am satisfied that this proposal meets the University requirements in respect of postgraduate research proposals, as set out in the approved PG Guidelines.
- (c) I have read and approved the final version of this proposal and it is submitted with my consent.

Signature:  
Print Name:

Date:

Signature:  
Print Name:

Date:

## **18 ANNEXURE A: QUESTIONNAIRE STRUCTURE**

**Cover page with Introduction & Call to participate**

**SECTION 1: Biographical Data**

**SECTION 2: Question A: (linked to objective A or research question A)**

**SECTION 3: Question B:**

**SECTION 4: Question C:**

**SECTION 5: Question D:**

Thank you

NB. Think of a structure your interview schedule, or your Participant Observation Schedule, etc.



## 19 ANNEXURE A: PARTICIPANT INFORMED CONSENT DECLARATION

### INFORMED CONSENT DECLARATION

(Participant)

Project Title: (Add Title)

.....(name of researcher/person administering the research instrument) from the Department of XXXX, University of Zululand has requested my permission to participate in the above-mentioned research project.

The nature and the purpose of the research project, and of this informed consent declaration have been explained to me in a language that I understand.

I am aware that:

1. The purpose of the research project is to ...(add aim).....
2. The University of Zululand has given ethical clearance to this research project and I have seen/ may request to see the clearance certificate.
3. By participating in this research project I will be contributing towards  
..... (state expected value or benefits to society or individuals that will arise from the research)
4. I will participate in the project by ..... (state full details of what the participant will be doing)
5. My participation is entirely voluntary and should I at any stage wish to withdraw from participating further, I may do so without any negative consequences.
6. I will not be compensated for participating in the research, but my out-of-pocket expenses will be reimbursed. (Should there be compensation, provide details)
7. There may be risks associated with my participation in the project. I am aware that
  - a. the following risks are associated with my participation: ..... (state full details of risks associated with the participation)
  - b. the following steps have been taken to prevent the risks: .....
8. The researcher intends publishing the research results in the form of  
..... However, confidentiality and anonymity of records will be maintained and that my name and identity will not be revealed to anyone who has not been involved in the conduct of the research.

Signature:

Date:

Print Name: