



UNIVERSITÉ DES
MASCAREIGNES

SAVOIR, C'EST POUVOIR

P-AC-DS 1.3 GUIDELINES FOR MPhil/ PhD RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Date: 16.09.19

Revision number: 1

Approved:

Quality and Standards Committee of 10th of May 2019

Academic Council of 3rd of June 2019

Board of 16th September 2019

PURPOSE

These guidelines provide applicants for MPhil/ PhD study the necessary information/details for the submission of their research proposal.

SCOPE:

These guidelines apply to the applicants for MPhil/PhD study with the Doctoral School of the Université des Mascareignes

REFERENCES:

DEFINITIONS:

- **Director of Studies**

Director of Studies is the main supervisor of the candidate

ABBREVIATIONS:

MPhil: Master of Philosophy

PhD: Doctor of Philosophy

RESPONSIBILITIES:

APPENDIX:

1. Structure of MPhil/ PhD Research Proposal Guideline

Applicants for MPhil/PhD study with the Doctoral School of the Université des Mascareignes need to submit a research proposal of **2000 - 2500 words** summarising and justifying their proposed research, to be submitted with their formal application.

The goal of the research proposal is to convince the reviewer(s) of the merits and feasibility of the research project.

The research proposal must address the question of what you plan to accomplish and why you want to and how you are going to do it. The purpose of the research proposal is to demonstrate that the research project is worth doing and manageable within the timescale.

In order to do these things, the research proposal should include:

Proposed title	A clearly stated title / research question at the beginning of your proposal.
Introduction	This section needs to explain the background and issues of the proposed research - Why is the topic interesting and important? What question(s) will you attempt to answer? Is there a theoretical and empirical 'gap' that your research will seek to fill? What core theories and concepts will you draw on?
Literature Review	This section needs to show the ability to review current research within the field of study - What are the main theories in the area? What are the critical empirical phenomena in the area? Specify the key references relevant to the proposed research. What will be the contribution to knowledge?
Methodology	This section needs to specify how the research will be carried out and how findings will be analysed - What are potential sources of data, how data will be collected, and any difficulties there may be in conducting your research. How empirical aspects of the research will be addressed? Which methodology is appropriate and why? If the research question requires a combination of different methodologies, how will they be related? Do you foresee any practical difficulties in pursuing the research (e.g. finding suitable participants or data sources)? If so, how might they be overcome?
Conclusion	This section needs to briefly restate the objectives of the research project, outline the research approach to be followed, and specify expected research outcomes - What is the added value of the research project? Why it is scientifically valuable to find it out, and on what basis

	you expect to evaluate the validity of your results. What is the significance of the study?
Schedule and Budget	This section of the proposal is to specify resources required. For research degrees, time is a vital resource and needs to be carefully planned. Therefore you should provide a schedule which shows the various phases of the research, together with the expected time periods for the completion of each phase. Similarly you should provide an outline budget of financial expenditure. This should only include direct expenditure associated with completing the research, such as data collection, equipment needed and should exclude your living and subsistence expenses.
Bibliography/References	A list of the sources used in your research proposal and any potential sources you may use for your research. (Not to be included in the word count).

2. Listed below are a few useful tips while proofreading your research proposal:

- Once the research proposal is completed, check it through thoroughly.
- Ensure all the information cited is accurate.
- Ensure correct spelling and punctuation.
- Write in clear sentences and structure the research proposal in a logical format that is easy for the reader to follow.