

GUIDANCE FOR RESEARCH DEGREE PROPOSALS

Applicants to the professional doctorate programme (Doctor of Education, Doctor of Health Studies and Doctor of Social Work pathways) have to provide an outline proposal of the research topic they intend to pursue as part of the thesis stage of their studies. The module stage of this programme is designed to equip students with a doctoral-level understanding of research methods and research design and so it is acknowledged that initial ideas about research may well change significantly once students progress to the thesis stage of their studies. Even so, an outline proposal remains a key part of the application, helping the Admissions Tutor to establish the suitability of an applicant for doctoral-level study and to identify the availability of appropriate supervisors.

Please be clear and concise in composing your outline proposal, which should be a minimum of 500, and a maximum of 1500, words in length and presented in typescript with a minimum of size 12 font and 1.5 line-spacing.

The outline description of the proposed research should include:

1. A suggested title for the proposed study;
 2. A brief statement of the aim and objectives of the research and how these relate to existing research, policy and/or practice in their chosen subject;
 3. A statement of the research question(s) implied by the aim and objectives;
 4. An outline of the proposed research design, including a statement on how the research questions will be investigated and the sample of respondents and other sources of data to be collected;
 5. An indicative bibliography (the key policy statements, legislation and/or research publications referenced, particularly in answer to point 2., above).
-