

RESEARCH PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

When preparing an application for entry into a research higher degree program it is necessary to supply a clear statement describing the proposed area of research (a research proposal). Consultation with a faculty or school academic staff member in the research area of interest **is required** prior to submission of an application. Liaising with an academic allows you to frame the proposal to align with established disciplines and areas of supervisor capacity.

You must write your own research proposal and reference accordingly. The exception is when your potential supervisor finalises the research proposal with you, for a specific research project that has already been defined. Please visit the University's Academic Integrity pages and policy



www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/support/new-students/academic-integrity-module

General

Length: From one to three pages is often suitable, depending on the area of research.

Detail: The following outline may be used as a guide. You should consider each of the areas that will be relevant to your research.

Research topic/title

An initial working title should be provided and should describe the content and direction of your project.

For example: *A template for assisting research students in the development of a research proposal.*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background

What is already known or unknown? Set the scene for your specific research. What research question are you addressing?

Why is the University of Newcastle a good place to conduct this research?

Aims

What do you want to know, prove, demonstrate, analyse, test, investigate or examine in your research?

List your project aims in a logical sequence. For example:

The aim of this project is to:

- a) Provide an outline of a research proposal
- b) Enable a prospective student to prepare a research proposal

Methodology

What methods will you use to address your research problem?

What do you need? (specify any special equipment, software or material)

Do you require particular resources?

Are there barriers or pitfalls that you can anticipate in your planned research?

Does the project involve human ethics, animal ethics or safety implications?

Is travel or fieldwork required? If so, where to, how long and at what intervals?

Expected outcomes, significance or rationale

Why is your important?

What do you expect it will deliver?

What are the expected outcomes?

Establish the importance of your project by highlighting its originality or why it is worth pursuing. Highlight the benefits, positive expected outcomes or innovative applications of knowledge.

Timetable

Indicate the timeframe for each broad stage considering literature surveys, data collection, production, modelling, review, analysis, testing, reporting, chapter and thesis writing, and thesis submission date.