

Research Proposal Guidelines

This is a guideline for a candidate to prepare a research proposal. The proposal should be around 3 pages long and must be attached with application form. Candidate should follow this standard format while writing the research proposal.

1. Cover Page

- Programme
- Title
- Candidate's name
- IC No./Passport No.
- Email address and contact number

2. Executive Summary

An executive summary summarizes a research proposal in such a way that readers can rapidly understand without having to read it all. It usually contains a brief statement of the problem, background information, concise analysis and expected outcome.

3. Introduction

A research proposal should start with an introductory remark by providing a definition, previous research on that specific area, and current issues that highlight the gap of the research.

The next paragraph should highlight the below:

- Problem Statement
- Research Objectives
- Research Scope
- Research Questions/Hypothesis

4. Literature Review

Literature review is a comprehensive summary of a previous research on your chosen topic. It is written to place your study within the context of existing knowledge. A good literature review will reflect your in-depth grasp of the subject matter, and your understanding towards the topic that you chose.

The literature review surveys scholarly sources that relevant to your particular topic and research area. You have to discuss, analyse and synthesize what other studies have said about your research topic. Towards the end, you have to emphasize on how your research relates to that of other scholars who have written on the similar topic. Ideally, at least five journals/articles should be discussed in the literature review.

5. Research Methodology

A research methodology provides a description of your general research design. It includes the specific methods and procedures that you plan to adopt throughout the research work. You should provide diagrams, charts and appropriate illustration to describe your methodology. Gantt chart and flow chart will help you to strategize and monitor your research work. List the instrumentation that you plan to use and provide a diagram of the experimental setup. Describe your theoretical approach or type of analysis, if applicable.

6. Expected Result

This part is very important to establish and highlight the significance of your study. Based on the problem statement that you identified and the listed objectives, you can describe what result can be expected, which should answer the research questions.

7. References

References page lists all the sources you have discussed and cited in your proposal. While citing, you should focus on recent papers as to ensure that the topic is still relevant. Papers older than five years should not be included, except for overriding purposes. Citation management tools like Mendeley and EndNote should be used to assist you in writing a reference list.