Research Proposal Template

1. A Heading/Title

You have to provide a heading/title for your proposed research. This would only be a provisional heading/title which could be revised once the admission process is completed and your course begins.

1. A Summary or Abstract

Your [research proposal](https://scholarshipfellow.com/research-proposal/) should begin with a short summary of your entire research project. The summary should be around 100 words in length. Your summary could be a couple of sentences stating the central topic/issue that you intend to base your research upon.

1. An Overview and Context

You should provide a summarized overview of your research topic in this section along with a bit of background on your specific area of research.  You could provide a short description of the present understanding of your topic as it stands as well as any recent discussions related to it. This would show your selection committee that you are familiar with your topic.

1. Goals and Inquiries

Your research proposal should clearly state your goals in researching the topic as well as the line of inquiry that you are likely to follow over the period of your research. Hence, think over the issue beforehand and understand for yourself what you wish to attain through your research and then begin writing your research proposal. If you’re left with not one but a set of issues on your research topic after your brainstorming session, place them in order of preference or priority and then fix your main research topic and any secondary issues that you would like to deal with over the course of your research.  Don’t make your research topic too broad-based otherwise, it will lack focus and depth. Besides making your research too broad-based will lower its chances of being completed within a normal degree period and hence increase the likelihood of its getting rejected by the selection committee. You could also specify here whether your research approach would be hypothetical, experimental or according to the book.

1. Research Methodology

Your research proposal should have a section dedicated to detailing the methodology that you propose to follow to achieve your research goals. Your research methodology could involve taking field trips, interviewing personalities or people in general, paying visits to specific archives or libraries, etc. If the research that you propose to do is likely to be confined to a library you could list out your main sources of information such as periodicals, journals, reports, and so on, and also state which libraries you would find them in. Similar details would have to be provided in case your primary research methodology involved field trips (such as where and when you intended to carry out these trips and what information you hoped to gain from them) or interviewing subjects (whom you were likely to interview, how many interviews would you need to conduct to gather your data). You would also have to explain here how you would conduct your analysis of the data collected.

1. Importance of Your Research

The uniqueness of your research would be one of the main deciding factors for the selection committee to approve/reject your proposal. Hence spare no effort in proving its originality in your research proposal. Explain how and why it would make a difference in the field of study and possibly the world at large.

1. A Short Bibliography

Your research proposal should also provide a tentative bibliography stating the significant books/articles/documents that you would be referring to in the course of your research.