

Guidelines for the writing of the research proposal to be submitted when applying to the research program

Guidelines approved by the supervisors committee on 2011-10-29

An application to the research program is expected to be comprised of the work an applicant wishes to submit for evaluation – often theses completed at the undergraduate and graduate level as well as publications if he/she has authored any – as well as a research proposal.

The research proposal should comprise the following:

- A presentation of the research problem and aim that the dissertation will address
- A presentation and discussion of previous research related to the above
- A discussion of how the empirical work will be completed (the method to be used, the materials that will be collected, the way in which the applicant envisions working with the analysis as well as ethical considerations)

When putting together the research proposal please keep in mind the following (see also appendix 2a as well):

- The research problem and aim is very important. There is room for creativity but it should always be sociological relevant which is why a presentation and discussion of previous research in the area the proposal touches upon is always needed. When writing please keep in mind that should aim to make clear what we know already, what we need to find out and also (and perhaps most importantly) which theoretical point of departure will be used and why.
- The research problem and aim should be formulated in such a way that the feasibility of the work proposed comes across. This is why clarity in terms of the methodological point of departure is needed and why attention should be paid to all aspects of research design (aim- theoretical choice- design). A timetable for the project should be included.
- The research proposal's length can vary (see what is stated in the announcement) but keep in mind that it should not exceed 2000 words (excl. references).

Last but not least, it seems worth mentioning that a good research proposal is clear throughout which means that each of the sections argue clearly for what is being proposed and why. In addition, there is consistency between the sections and a goodness of fit between aims-theory-method. An excellent research proposal is all of this as well as creative!

Please note that the applicants that intend to write their dissertations in English must submit a proposal in English.