University■Approved Research Proposal Template

For DBA, PhD, and Master's Students

1. Title Page

Include: Proposed research title, full name, degree program, university and faculty, proposed supervisor (if applicable), and date of submission.

2. Abstract (150–250 words)

Provide a concise summary of the research problem, aim, methodology, and expected contribution.

3. Introduction and Background

Introduce the research area, provide context, explain why the topic is important, and outline the background of the study.

4. Problem Statement

Clearly define the research problem, identify gaps in existing literature or practice, and justify the need for the study.

5. Research Aim and Objectives

State one clear research aim and 3–6 measurable research objectives aligned with the problem statement.

6. Research Questions or Hypotheses

Present focused research questions (qualitative/mixed methods) or testable hypotheses (quantitative studies).

7. Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

Critically review relevant theories, models, and empirical studies. Identify gaps and develop a conceptual or theoretical framework.

8. Research Methodology

Explain research philosophy, approach, design, data collection methods, sampling strategy, and data analysis techniques.

9. Ethical Considerations

Discuss informed consent, confidentiality, anonymity, data protection, and ethical approval procedures.

10. Expected Contribution of the Study

Explain the anticipated theoretical, practical, and/or policy contributions of the research.

11. Limitations and Delimitations

Identify potential limitations and define the scope and boundaries of the study.

12. Research Timeline

Provide a realistic timeline or Gantt chart outlining key research stages and milestones.

13. References

List all sources cited in the proposal using the required academic referencing style.

14. Appendices (if applicable)

Include supporting documents such as questionnaires, interview guides, consent forms, or ethics approvals.