

# **GRADUATION THESIS RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL**

## **PREPARATION GUIDELINES**

- The Graduation Thesis Research Project Proposal indicates that the Student has done adequate thinking about the topic and sufficient preparation for the study.
- The Graduation Thesis Research Project Proposal is the document that proposes the Graduation Thesis Research Project, clearly describing the goals of the study and the scientific research methodology to accomplish them.

The proposal can be considered a “road map” (an organised plan, including a timeframe) which outlines the steps that will be taken during the execution of the research project.

It provides a “milestone” in the beginning of the Graduation Thesis Research process.

- The main purpose of preparing the Graduation Thesis Research Project Proposal is to confirm that the proposed Graduation Thesis will be original and worth to research in terms of academic quality.
- The Graduation Thesis Research Project Proposal allows the Graduation Thesis Supervisor / Graduation Thesis Committee to assess the degree of preparedness of the Student.
- The Graduation Thesis Research Project Proposal should demonstrate that the Student understands the work to be conducted, its nature and significance and has read the related scientific literature in formulating the proposal.
- The Graduation Thesis Research Project Proposal provides information about the intended research project, in terms of content and methodology, in order to assess the feasibility of the research Project.

The Graduation Thesis Research Project Proposal seeks to convince the Graduation Thesis Supervisor / Graduation Thesis Committee that the Graduation Thesis Research Project is feasible.

“Feasible” means that

- The Graduation Thesis Research Project should be undertaken, i.e. that it is an important topic for the scientific field that should be researched
- It is possible, i.e. that the student knows how to approach and execute the Graduation Thesis Research Project
- The Graduation Thesis Research Project can be done with the resources available and within the required timeframe
- Student must work closely with her/his Supervisor to develop the Graduation Thesis Research Project Proposal.
- The Graduation Thesis Research Project Proposal is intended to answer the “what?”, “why?” and “how?” questions concerning the Graduation Thesis.
- Before writing the Graduation Thesis Research Project Proposal, the Student should have done an extensive literature review.

She/he should have a solid understanding on the background materials and previous research done by other researchers in the same scientific field.

- Writing the Graduation Thesis Research Project Proposal should be based on a “system approach”.

A systems approach means picturing the research project as a system made up of several elements.

In a systems approach, each element is essential to the system as a whole.

If an element is removed or missing, the system fails.

Each of the sections of the proposal represents an element of the research project. Accordingly, each section should represent an essential element of the Graduation Thesis Research Project.

- The Graduation Thesis Research Project Proposal should not exceed **eight pages** (excluding cover page, abstract, table of contents, and bibliography).

The proposal should be double spaced in A4 Paper. The font size of **12 points** is required and use of **Times New Roman, Helvetica, Arial or Georgia typeface** is recommended.

- The Graduation Thesis Research Project Proposal is written in future tense (as the work is not yet done), except for the review of relevant literature which is written in the past tense.
- The Graduation Thesis Research Project Proposal follows the outline used for the first three chapters of the completed thesis:

- **(Tentative) Thesis Title** - Consistent with the Scope of the Study

(preferably not longer than 12 words)

- **Introduction (1 to 2 pages)**

- Background and Overview
- Statement of the Research Problem / Research Question
- Purpose / Objectives / Rationale of the Study
- Justification of the Study
- Importance / Significance of the Study
- Research Questions / Research Hypothesis
- Theoretical / Conceptual Framework Based on Comprehensive Literature Review
- Scope of the Study
- Limitations of the Study

- **Literature Review (2-3 pages)**

The review should be sufficiently comprehensive to map out the literature foundation on which the study is situated.

The literature should be identified according to the related subject and scope and the selection of Graduation Thesis subject should be discussed by emphasizing on deficiency of the current literature.

The specific gaps in the present knowledge on the subject and the areas where a new contribution could be made should be indicated.

The academic expectation of the Graduation Thesis Research Project is that publishable new scientific knowledge will result.

- **Research Design and Methodology (2-3 pages)**
  - Research Framework / Structure
  - Research Design
  - Research Process
  - Research Method(s) - Quantitative, Qualitative (subjects, materials, apparatus, instrumentation, analyses, procedures, software packages)
  - Ethical considerations
  - Data Collection / Sampling Method
  - Data Analysis / Statistical Tests
  - Research Plan Schedule - Table or Chart Format with Deadlines
  - How the research will be disseminated / communicated to the academic community
- A significant proportion of the proposal writing may be usable in the final Graduation Thesis (e.g., Introduction, Literature Review, and Research Methodology).