

APPENDIX II: Guidelines for Preparing Detailed Research Proposals for Dissertation/Thesis

1. **Name, Registration Number and Academic Qualifications of Candidate:**
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2. **Name(s) of Supervisor(s) and Institutional Affiliation:**
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3. **Department and College/School/Institute:**.....
4. **Proposed Degree:**
5. **Title:** Give a title to the thesis problem. The title should be concise and clear. From the title, the reader should be able to predict fairly accurately what the thesis will be about.

6. **Introduction:** A thesis should contain an Introduction Section which gives background information and a setting to the problem of the proposed research. It is in this Section that the applicant comprehensively reviews the literature pertinent to the problem: to show what other people have published on the problem (citing specific authors where appropriate), what gaps of knowledge still exist, and what additional research needs to be done. It is also in this section that the candidate demonstrates his/her mastery of the theoretical subject matter in the research area, and where he/she presents the hypotheses to be tested in the proposed research. Often it is useful for the applicant to divide the Introduction Section into sub-headings to include:
 - 6.1 **General Introduction:** Defining the problem area
 - 6.2 **Statement of the Problem:** Delineation or identification of the problem.
 - 6.3 **Purpose/Objectives:** Spelling out the specific objectives.
 - 6.4 **Hypotheses/Research questions:** Questions and propositions summarising the applicant's expected findings in the proposed research, and presenting a clear rationale for each hypothesis or research question. For every hypothesis, variables to be measured/tested should be clearly stated.
 - 6.5 **Significance of the study:** Elaboration of the importance of the study and advantages to be derived.
 - 6.6 **Scope of the Study**
 - 6.5 **Literature Review:** Focusing attention on the relevant literature on the problem, including findings by other researchers.

7. **Methods and Materials**
A thesis proposal should contain a Section giving details on the materials and methods proposed to be used when conducting the research. The location(s) where the proposed research will be carried out should also be given in this section. If particular instruments are to

be used, their details and specifications should be presented. If the data are to be collected through sampling, then the research design and sampling procedures should be described. If questionnaires will be used, samples of the proposed questionnaires should be presented. If standard methods will be used, then full references to them should be given. In case new methods have been developed by the applicant, these should be described in sufficient detail. In all cases, the data analysis plan should also be included. If any limitations to the proposed methods are known, then these should be pointed out.

8. **References**

At the end of the applicant's Research Proposal he/she should have a section where he/she lists all the references cited in the text. He/she should present the references in an acceptable manner, as prescribed by respective College/School/Institute.

9. **Other Relevant Information:**

9.1 **Financial Arrangements**

This section should give the source of funding for the proposed research and also the proposed itemized budget.

9.2 **Duration**

This section should give the total time within which the research is expected to be completed, and also a time-schedule showing the sequence of the research activities, in the form of a time activity chart.

Name:

Signature:

Date:.....

C A N D I D A T E

1. Comments by Supervisor 1:

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Date: Name: Signature:.....

SUPERVISOR

2. Comments by Supervisor 2:

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Date: Name: Signature:.....

SUPERVISOR

3. Comments by the Principal/Dean/Director

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Date: Name: Signature:.....

PRINCIPAL/DEAN/DIRECTOR