



# Research project: the research proposal

A research proposal is a plan or outline of your proposed research project. It is used to demonstrate that you have identified a suitable question/problem to investigate and an appropriate approach to investigate the question/problem. Below is an example of what a research proposal might generally include; however always check your project guidelines for any specific requirements or variations to this structure.

## Structure of a research proposal

<b>Title page</b> This is a separate page with the title of the report, your name, student ID and other identifying details as requested.
<b>Introduction</b> This section provides contextual information to set the scene for your research project. You will also discuss why this research is needed and the broad aims and objectives.
<b>Research questions</b> Clearly and concisely state your research questions and what you are going to investigate. Express this as a question, hypothesis or proposition (depends on research project type).
<b>Literature review</b> This is a detailed presentation of information related to your proposed research. Draw on literature related to your topic including journal articles, reports and other scholarly sources and identify a gap in the literature which your project will attempt to fill.
<b>Research design (methodology)</b> This section details how you will go about answering your research question/s. Includes what type of data will be collected and how, as well as how it will be analysed. States any limitations (e.g. size of project, time available, resourcing issues).
<b>Research timeline (if required)</b> This section details what activities or tasks will be undertaken in your research and when.
<b>References</b> This is a list of the references cited in the proposal. For further guidance about referencing and avoiding plagiarism, check the UniSA website on referencing.
<b>Appendices (if required)</b> This includes extra materials and is placed at the end of the research report as including them in the main section may distract from the flow of the discussion.

### References

Monash University. (2014). *Writing a proposal in education*. Doctoral thesis.

<https://www.monash.edu/education/students/academic-skills/research-proposal-guidelines>