

**Table 2** Criteria for assessing a research proposal (adapted from the UniSA STEM)

<b>Key components</b>	
<b>Title</b> Appropriate length/Describe the study	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Introduction</b>	
▪ States the nature of the topic, why it is considered important and how the research will contribute to its solution. (i.e. a statement of the topic? rationale for the research?)	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Provides background to the topic and references to foundational research?	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Clear aim/objectives of the study? Is it original?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Literature review</b>	
▪ Adequate range of literature sources	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Current & relevant references linked to topic	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Discussion of the literature related to each other and the research objectives	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Continuity of review/discussion ('telling a story')	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Comprehensive and detailed knowledge and understanding of the literature	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Discussion of relevant theory and/or frameworks	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Summary of review (what is known/not known) and its impact on the proposal	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Clear, relevant and researchable research questions	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Statements of hypotheses and explanations (if relevant)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Research methodology</b>	
▪ Appropriateness and justification of selected methodology (with references)	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Details of proposed data collection/generation methods	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Details of materials, apparatus, manufacturer information (if appropriate)	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Details of data analysis approaches	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Have ethical issues been considered?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Budget</b> (if appropriate)	
▪ Have cost implications been considered? Is there sufficient funding?	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Is the available equipment adequate?	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ What technical assistance will be required?	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Will non-UniSA facilities be required?	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ Is travel involved?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Timeline/Project plan</b> Is it practical and sufficiently detailed?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>General criteria</b>	
▪ clarity of expression	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ research writing style	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ quality and relevance of illustrative material (such as graphs, tables, illustrations)	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ relevance and accuracy of citations, references	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ development of a coherent argument (logical planning and sequencing)	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ worthiness for a research proposal	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ high quality of presentation (including consistency, grammar, spelling and punctuation)	<input type="checkbox"/>
▪ other .....	<input type="checkbox"/>