

Guidelines for Research Outline Form for prospective Master's & Doctoral students

A research outline is a brief outline of the research project that you have in mind.

It is usually between 5 and 25 pages in length

Items	Information
1. Proposed title a. <i>Should have less than 40 words</i> b. <i>Should not be ambiguous and should convey the focus of the study</i>	
2. Name	
3. Student number	
4. Proposed qualification	
5. College	
6. Department	
7. Research focus area	
8. Email address	
9. Problem statement a. <i>The problem statement should define the extent of the problem including its distribution, quantity</i> b. <i>What is the current problem or opportunity which indicates the necessity for the research?</i> c. <i>What is the gap in knowledge?</i> d. <i>For PhD add novelty or innovation of the study/concepts from relevant theory or conceptual framework or originality</i>	
10. Significance of the study a. <i>Why it is important to conduct this research?</i> b. <i>Why does this research need to be conducted?</i> c. <i>What are the consequences of not conducting this research?</i>	
11. Aim and objectives a. <i>There should be one general aim starting with the word "To"</i> b. <i>An aim explains should clearly what you want to do research on</i> c. <i>Objectives should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound</i> d. <i>The objectives should be based on and clearly relate to the research problem or title</i>	

<p>e. <i>The identified variables/constructs deduced from relevant theory or conceptual framework</i></p>	
<p>12. Research questions</p> <p>a. <i>What are the main questions that flow from your problem statement?</i></p> <p>b. <i>State the unknown in terms of questions or in terms of solutions</i></p>	
<p>13. Literature review (this depends on the discipline)</p> <p>a. <i>Write reasons for choosing the topic</i></p> <p>b. <i>How is your study aligned to the chosen focus area?</i></p> <p>c. <i>What literature do you intend to review and why?</i></p> <p>d. <i>It should substantiate the identified gap of the study</i></p> <p>e. <i>It should be informed by the research: problem/questions/objectives/hypothesis methods/models employed by other researchers under similar circumstances may be covered</i></p>	
<p>14. Research design or Research or methodology or Theoretical framework or Materials and methods or Procedures including the study area</p> <p>a. <i>Methodologies are discipline specific – ensure you use a relevant methodology</i></p> <p>b. <i>Describe the methods that will be used to achieve the research objectives</i></p> <p>c. <i>How will the study be conducted?</i></p> <p>d. <i>How will the data be analysed?</i></p> <p>e. <i>Include the time frame of all research planned activities</i></p>	
<p>15. References or Bibliography</p> <p>a. <i>Research is built on existing knowledge. It implies that all research must have references.</i></p> <p>b. <i>Use only one of the prescribed referencing styles (for example APA, Harvard, Mendeley Oxford, IEEE, MLA)</i></p> <p>c. <i>Use original sources from accredited publications (reviewed journal, reviewed book etc.)</i></p>	
<p>Proposed Budget for the project and how the study will be funded</p>	