



Your research proposal – a typical plan

Component	Content
Title	Working title – you may have to tighten this up after you've discussed your proposal with your supervisor – keep it short
Outline of the problem	The proposition or thesis – the gap you want to fill or problem you want to address
Aim	Statement of intent – general description of the overall purpose – the hypothesis or general question
Objectives	The sub-questions – the indicators and variables – specific outcomes that will confirm/ falsify the hypothesis or answer the question
Background	A brief summary of the current thinking on the subject – recent publications – main issues involved – the way opinion divides – and the gaps to be filled or new areas to be examined
Research strategy	Methods you'll use to collect information – relate back to the aim and objectives; how each method deals with each sub-question – costs and equipment – assess your approach: reliability and validity
Timetable	Breakdown of stages with deadlines built in: a sequence of things to do which charts a course through your work
Conclusion	What you think is likely to be the outcome – its significance: influence on future research; who might benefit – relate back to aims and objectives
References	Those cited in the proposal
Draft plan of dissertation	Proposed sections and chapter headings, and sub-headings – like the timetable, it gives order and structure to your work