

**MPHIL and PHD by Research**

**APPLICANT RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

Please make sure you read the guidance given here for each section, including the suggested maximum word count, and insert your text in the appropriate box below each.

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| **TITLE** |
| This should tell the reader, concisely and precisely, the key aspects of your proposed research and subject area. Please keep this short and simple.Suggested maximum word count: 10 – 15 words |
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| **OVERVIEW** |
| Provide a short summary of your proposed research that introduces the project clearly. Ideally, start by stating the purpose of your research (what the research will explore, test or examine), and then explain briefly how it contributes to current work in the field (why it is worth doing). For a PhD, you should outline the gap in knowledge that you feel your study will fill. Suggested maximum word count: 500 |
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| **LITERATURE REVIEW** |
| This should demonstrate that you are familiar with the key research in your field, that you have started to engage with literature in the field and why your research is necessary. For a PhD, you should identify possible gaps where your research can make an original contribution to knowledge in your field.. You could use publicly available sources accessible through Google Scholar <https://scholar.google.co.uk/> for instance as a full literature review is not required at this stage. Suggested maximum word count: 500 |
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| **RESEARCH QUESTION(S), AIMS AND OBJECTIVES** |
| This should outline what your research will explore. Depending on the discipline within which your research is situated, you may want to express this in the form of a research question or focus solely on an aim/s and objectives, Your aim should outline what will be achieved through your proposed study and the objectives should explain *how* you intend to achieve this aim. One mistake applicant’s can make is presenting research questions, aims and objectives that are too broad in their scope to be achievable within an MPhil or PhD project. Remember, the MPhil or PhD can inform further research that can be carried out by you or others in the future. Suggested maximum word count: 250 |
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| **METHODOLOGY, METHOD, DATA OR ARTEFACTS** |
| This should outline the proposed methodological approach and method(s), the data or artefacts you intend to collect/use, and your early ideas about how you will approach your analysis. Make sure you explain why your choices will enable you to achieve your proposed research aim/s. Also indicate any practical issues you will need to consider (e.g. access to data or artefacts).  Suggested maximum word count: 500 |
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| **ETHICS** |
| This should indicate any ethical issues you foresee with your proposed research, and how these could be managed.Suggested maximum word count: 150 |
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| **PROJECT PLAN**  |
| This should provide a proposed timeline outlining the key milestones of the project and how long you will need to complete each step. If preferred, use and append a Gannt chart. The purpose of this is to consider whether your proposed study is feasible within the time available in a MPhil or PhD programme. Suggested maximum word count: 200 |
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| **RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR THE RESEARCH**  |
| This should identify and justify the required resources, such as equipment (e.g. time spent in a scientific laboratory using specific equipment), materials or other expenses, and training needs you anticipate (try to identify any skills gaps and training that you might need) and how you intend to fund these. Suggested maximum word count: 200 |
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| **REFERENCES** |
| This should list all the literature you have *cited* in your proposal. Please use a referencing system appropriate for your discipline.  |
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| **SUPERVISORS** |
| Please give the name(s) of potential supervisors at the University of Worcester who you have already contacted to discuss your proposal. |
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