

PhD Program at Nordakademie Research Proposal Writing



Research Proposal

Your research proposal should include the following:

1. Working Title

2. Purpose

What are the aims/objectives of the research project?

What are the key research questions to be answered?

Why is it of theoretical and practical relevance to answer these research questions?

3. Literature Review and Theoretical Foundation

Provide an overview of relevant past research and findings!

Provide an overview of key papers/publications relevant to the research project.

Provide an overview of the key theories which will form the base for the project.

Include, if possible, specific hypotheses to be tested/researched.

4. Design/Methodology/Approach

Which kind of design/approach is envisaged?

How are the objectives achieved?

Include the main method(s) which will be used for the research (e.g. literature review, empirical survey, statistical analyses etc.)!

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5. Practical implications of the research project

What outcomes and implications for practice, applications and consequences are envisaged?

What will be the potential impact on business practice or implications for management as a result of this research?

What will be the impact on society of this research?

6. Theoretical implications of the research project

What will be the theoretical contribution of the research project?

Why is it of theoretical relevance?

How will it contribute to theorizing?

7. Research Plan

Provide a project plan including work packages and their envisaged timings, milestones and formal outcomes (e.g. papers in the case of a cumulative project)!

Provide a draft of your research agenda.

It comes without saying that your research proposal should follow generally accepted guidelines as regards literature handling (e.g. APA).