

Honours Project Proposal template

The whole proposal length can be between 1 to 4 pages. Keep in mind that once you get the project Read the information on the link below:

<http://iims.massey.ac.nz/postgraduate/handbook-research.html>

Title: A succinct description of your research topic, usually no more than 15 words.

Justification: Why it is important to do the research? Who will benefit from it and what needs will it satisfy (e.g. new evidence due to better data collection or analysis compared with previous work; an improved methodology, procedure or analysis of existing theory or its implications; a new theory to explain phenomena; a new application of existing theory; confirmation/disapproval of the results of a previous study)? Include objectives of the study.

Literature Review: What are the major research studies that have been done in this area and how does your work fit in? Summarise the key findings and relevant assumptions of previous research that is directly related to your research question(s). Explain how your work fills current gaps in the literature, addresses existing weaknesses in current theory or practice or re-enforces current theory and the benefits that will ensue from your work. (for the proposal, just a few paragraphs should suffice).

Methodology: What research method will you use and what are the potential problems or issues you will need to address to ensure you can successfully use this approach? Summarise the theory that underlies your work along with your key research hypotheses. Identify the research method (e.g. case study, survey, field study, action research, lab experiment, etc.) and the research techniques/tools (e.g. algorithms, prototyping, programming in which environment etc.) that will be used. Outline your research design, identify any aspects that are new, justify the suitability of the approach and its limitations. + **Analysis:** Clearly specify how you will present your results and discuss any statistical tests you will use. Hardware and/or software needs as well as how they will be satisfied should also be discussed.

Expected Results and Contributions: What are the possible outcomes (e.g. positive, negative or no correlation between variables) and which one would lead to the most fruitful research work and why? What are your key assumptions and what are the limitations of working under these assumptions? (e.g. will you be able to generalise your results?) If you did a pilot study, summarise the results and how it influenced your study. Otherwise, discuss what you think will happen based on your intuition and the exploration and study you have done up to this point.

References: References cited in your proposal, listed in an appropriate style.

Timetable: by __/__/__, submit a thesis/report. Try to estimate time that will be consumed by the different stages of the project. Reserve some time for writing up the thesis/report. Usually you write in parallel to the practical activities, e.g., the chapter for Literature Review etc. Do not detail too much, just state all the important activities monthly or bimonthly).

Note: change the structure of the proposal according to the needs of specific projects.