

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

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18 Bold

(Title of the Research Proposal)

(Note: Follow Capitalisation in the Title)

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2.5"

3"

Scholar's Name: _____

Scholar's ID # _____

Program (i.e. M.Phil/Ph.D.): (_____)

Date of Submission: _____

Supervisor: _____

Co-supervisor (if any): _____

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Bold

Time new roman 18 Bold

Department of English (Linguistics & Literature)

**Qurtuba University of Science & Information Technology
D.I. Khan / Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan**

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Certificate by the Supervisor

Title should be in Time new
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(Title of Research Proposal)

Submitted by

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_____ (Scholar's Name)

_____ (Scholar's ID.)

I have thoroughly checked this proposal as per guidelines.

(Mark where applicable)

General Format
Literature Review
Research Methodology
References
Appendix

CHECKED N/A

→ All the
boxes
should be
marked

I certify/endorse the final submission of this proposal.

Supervisor's Name & Signature: _____

Co-Supervisor (if any): _____
(Signature)

Note: The Research Proposal would not be accepted for submission to the GSC/BASAR if found incomplete, without Plagiarism Report, or without signature by the supervisor/co-supervisor as the case may be.

Self-Assessment Report by the Scholar

Checklist:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Format of Thesis in APA/MLA Style		
Cover and Title Page		
Certificate by the Supervisor		
Table of Contents		
Language & Grammar/Proofreading		
Problem Statement		
Objectives of the Study		
Methodology		
Theoretical Framework		
Research Questions/Hypotheses		
Rationale		
Significance of the Study		
Delimitations/Limitations		
Definition of Terms (if any)		
Literature Review		
Research Design		
Sampling		
Variables		
Methods of Data Collection		
Appendices (if any)		

I _____ hereby declare that I have finalized the attached Research Proposal under the guidelines of prescribed format of Qurtuba University of Science & Information Technology D.I.Khan/Peshawar.

Scholar's Signature: _____

Scholar's ID: _____

For Use of the Graduate Study Committee:

- I recommend the Research Proposal be revised.
- I recommend the Research Proposal be accepted & forwarded to the BO SAR.
- I recommend the Research Proposal be accepted with minor amendments & forwarded to the BOSAR

ORIC Member/Chairman for English Studies _____

The Goal of a Research Proposal

In a research proposal, the goal is to present the author's plan for the research they intend to conduct, to have the research approved by the researcher's supervisor or department so they can move forward with it. In a research proposal, the researcher demonstrates how and why their research is relevant to their field. They demonstrate that the work is necessary to: filling a gap in the existing body of research on their subject, underscoring existing research on their subject, and/or adding new, original knowledge to the academic community's existing understanding of their subject.

Instructions for Researchers

The title of the Research Proposal must be provided/mentioned on the Title page. The Whole text of the Proposal must be typed following the standard format (i.e. Font Size: 12, & Font: Times New Roman) with double-spaced on A-4 size paper (margins: 4cm left; 2cm right; 2cm top; 3cm bottom with auto spacing between paragraphs; widows/orphan control on; with Pagination in the centre-bottom). The text should be provided under headings and subheadings for different sections. Abbreviations used in the Research Proposal must be consistently throughout the text and must be clearly defined in full on first use. The M.Phil Research Proposal should be in between 10-15 pages maximum properly paginated while for PhD it should be 15-20 pages.

The Elements of Research Proposal:

- 1.0 Introduction
 - 1.1 Background of the Study
 - 1.2 Problem Statement
 - 1.3 Objectives
 - 1.4 Research Questions/Hypothesis
 - 1.5 Rationale of the Study
 - 1.6 Delimitation/Limitation
 - 1.7 Significance of the Study
- 2.0 Literature Review
- 3.0 Theoretical Framework/Empirical Framework
 - 3.1 Methodology
 - 3.2 Data Collection
 - 3.3 Data Analysis
- 4.0 References/Appendices

Explanation of Elements of Research Proposal:

1.0. Introduction (Times New Roman 14 Bold)

1.1 Background of the Study: The background has to provide the context of the study, to discuss the broader research area, what the current literature says about the research area, what are some of the gaps in existing studies, and how this led to the gap/need you intend to examine in your study. It should provide sufficient background information to enable a non-expert scholar in the field to understand them fully. **(Maximum: 2-5 pages)**

1.2. Problem Statement (Times New Roman 14 Bold)

After you have identified a research problem for your research work, the next step is to write a problem statement. An effective problem statement is concise and concrete. It should:

- i. Put the problem in **context** (what do we already know?)
- ii. Describe the **precise issue** that the research will address (what do we need to know?)
- iii. Show the **relevance** of the problem (why do we need to know it?)
- iv. Set the **objectives** of the research (what will you do to find out?)

1.3. Research Objectives (Times New Roman 14 Bold)

Specific, lucid, realistic and achievable/measurable research objectives (Range: 2-4) within the time framework should be constructed under the guidance of the supervisor.

1.4 Research Questions OR Hypotheses (Times New Roman 14 Bold)

Specific, lucid, realistic and achievable/measurable research objectives (Range: 2-4) within the time framework should be constructed under the guidance of the supervisor. Research Questions should be:

- i. *Clear and focused.* In other words, the question should clearly state what the researcher needs to do.
- ii. *Not too broad and not too narrow.*
- iii. *Not too easy to answer. ...*
- iv. *Not too difficult to answer. ...*
- v. *Researchable. ...*
- vi. *Analytical rather than descriptive.*

Secondly, curiosity is fundamental to hypothetical approach in empirical research. A hypothesis is a statement that explains the predictions and reasoning of your research. It is an “educated guess” based on observations about how your scientific experiments will end. As a fundamental part of the scientific method, a good hypothesis is carefully written, but even the simplest ones can be difficult to put into words. A researcher must keep in mind the five characteristics while constructing a good hypothesis such as,

- i. cause and effect
- ii. testable prediction
- iii. independent and dependent variables
- iv. candid language
- v. adherence to ethics.

So, for an empirical research, the researcher needs hypotheses to construct. Research questions/hypotheses should be constructed under the guidance of supervisor.

1.5. Rationale of the Study

The rationale should answer the need for conducting the research. To write your rationale, you should first write a background on what all research has been done on your study topic. Follow this with ‘what is missing’ or ‘what are the open questions of the study’. Identify the gaps in the literature and emphasize why it is important to address those gaps. This will form the rationale of your study.

It is important for you to be able to explain the importance of the research you are conducting by providing valid arguments. Rationale for the study needs to be specific and ideally, it should relate to the following points: **1.** The research needs to contribute to the elimination of a gap in the literature **2.** The research can be conducted to solve a specific problem. **3.** The study needs to contribute to the existing knowledge.

1.6. Delimitation/Limitation (Times New Roman 14 Bold)

A *delimitation* addresses how a study will be narrowed in scope, that is, how it is bounded.

This is the place to explain the things that you are not doing and why you have chosen not to do them, the literature you will not review (and why not), the population you are not studying (and why not), the methodological procedures you will not use (and why you will not use them). Limit your delimitations to the things that a reader might reasonably expect you to do but that you, for clearly explained reasons, have decided not to do.

limitation identifies potential weaknesses of the study. Think about your analysis, the nature of self-report, your instruments, the sample. Think about threats to internal validity that may have been impossible to avoid or minimize, explain.

1.7. Significance of the Study (Times New Roman 14 Bold)

The significance of the study, quite simply, is the **importance** of the study to the field – what new insights/information it will yield, how it will benefit the target population, very simply, why it needs to be conducted. You should indicate how your research will refine, revise, or extend existing knowledge in the area under investigation. Note that such refinements, revisions, or extensions may have either substantive, theoretical, or methodological significance. Think pragmatically (i.e., cash value). Most studies have two potential audiences: practitioners and professional peers. Statements relating the research to both groups are in order. This can be a difficult section to write. Think about *implications* how results of the study may affect scholarly research, theory, practice, educational interventions, curricula, counseling, policy. While writing the significance of your study, you must answer questions like:

Why should your research be published?

How will this study contribute to the development of your field?

2.0. Literature Review (Times New Roman 14 Bold)

- A. The review of the literature provides the background and context for the research problem. It should establish the need for the research and indicate that the writer is knowledgeable about the area.
- B. The literature review accomplishes several important things.
 - 1. It shares with the reader the results of other studies that are closely related to the study being reported

2. It relates a study to the larger, ongoing dialogue in the literature about a topic, filling in gaps and extending prior studies
 3. It provides a framework for establishing the importance of the study, as well as a benchmark for comparing the results of a study with other findings.
 4. It “frames” the problem earlier identified.
- C. Demonstrate to the reader that you have a comprehensive grasp of the field and are aware of important recent substantive and methodological developments.
- D. Delineate the “jumping-off place” for your study. How will your study refine, revise, or extend what is now known?
- E. Avoid statements that imply that little has been done in the area or that what has been done is too extensive to permit easy summary. Statements of this sort are usually taken as indications that the writer is not really familiar with the literature.
- F. In a proposal, the literature review is generally brief and to the point. Be judicious in your choice of exemplars, the literature selected should be pertinent and relevant. Select and reference only the more appropriate citations. Make key points clearly and succinctly.
- G. Committees may want a section outlining your *search strategy*—the procedures you used and sources you investigated (e.g., databases, journals, test banks, experts in the field) to compile your literature review. Check with your Chair.

3.0. Theoretical Framework/Conceptual Framework (Times New Roman 14 Bold)

Theories are developed by researchers to explain phenomena, draw connections, and make predictions. In the theoretical framework, you explain the theories that support your research, showing that your work is grounded in established ideas. The theoretical framework is the structure that can hold or support a theory of a research study. The theoretical framework introduces and describes the theory that explains why the research problem under study exists. The theoretical and conceptual framework explains the path of a research and grounds it firmly in theoretical constructs. The overall aim of the two frameworks is to make research findings more meaningful, acceptable to the theoretical constructs in the research field and ensures generalizability. They assist in stimulating research while ensuring the extension of knowledge by providing both direction and impetus to the research inquiry. They also enhance the empiricism and rigor of a research. Thus, it is no exaggeration for to say that both the theoretical and conceptual frameworks give life to a research. A research without the theoretical or conceptual framework makes it difficult for readers in ascertaining the academic position and the underlying factors to the researcher's assertions and/or hypotheses.

3.1. Methodology (Times New Roman 14 Bold)

In your thesis or dissertation, you will have to discuss the methods you used to do your research. The methodology chapter explains what you did and how you did it, allowing readers to evaluate the reliability and validity of the research. It should include:

- The type of research you did
- How you collected your data
- How you analyzed your data
- Any tools or materials you used in the research
- Your rationale for choosing these methods

The methods section of your research proposal should answer the following questions:

- What is your study design and why did you choose it?
- Is the study qualitative or quantitative?
- What are the methods you will use to collect data?
- Who will be the participants of your study?
- What procedures/activities will the study involve?
- How long will the experiments/study take to get completed?

4.0. References & Appendices (Times New Roman 14 Bold)

A researcher needs to cite the external sources (i.e. book, research paper, report) used for writing a research paper, report, or thesis. Each external source is cited at two places within the prepared document, that is, i- in-text citation and ii- reference List. The researcher needs to follow either APA or MLA style of citation in research works in consultation with the supervisor.

Appendices (Times New Roman 14 Bold)

The need for complete documentation generally dictates the inclusion of appropriate appendixes in proposals (although this is generally not the case as regards conference proposals). The following materials are appropriate for an appendix.

- i. Verbatim instructions to participants.
- ii. Original scales or questionnaires.
- iii. If an instrument is copyrighted, permission in writing to reproduce the instrument from the copyright holder or proof of purchase of the instrument.
- iv. Interview protocols.
- v. Sample of informed consent forms.
- vi. Cover letters sent to appropriate stakeholders.
- vii. Official letters of permission to conduct research.

Designed By:
Dr. Irfan Ali Shah
ORIC Member for English
Studies
Qurtuba University of Science &
Information Technology
Peshawar