

## Research Study Thesis Proposal

### Aim

To demonstrate that an applicant for a research degree has a viable project.

It must demonstrate;

- Suitability for the aims of the degree, whether a doctorate, professional doctorate or research masters. See; [http://www.uws.edu.au/research/future\\_research\\_students/degrees](http://www.uws.edu.au/research/future_research_students/degrees)  
Please note that professional doctorates (DCR, EdD, DCA, DBA) may have additional requirements and you should consult the relevant degree policies as well as the generic professional doctorate policy.
- Fitting methodology for the research theme/question.

### Timing

It is important to allow sufficient time and energy to prepare a good proposal; it will more likely lead to success and will set you up for the beginning of candidature. Include time to contact an academic supervisor; you may need to speak to more than one person. Allow time for them to return your call or make an appointment, and to discuss your ideas in person, over the phone/by email/Skype.

### Contacting an academic advisor.

You may have a particular person or department in mind. When you first make contact to discuss your topic of interest, be prepared to talk about your understanding of the literature and the proposed line of enquiry. It is up to you to make the first move in outlining the topic and the academic advisor may help you to refine it.

Ask yourself: Can you immerse yourself in this for three years? Do you really want to investigate this topic intensively?

### Content of the proposal

- The research theme/research question
- Name of the academic(s) with whom you have discussed the project
- Overview of current research- where is the gap?
- Methodology  
Describe all that applies: the type of study, how it will be done, the data collection and data analysis.
- Resource requirements; will you need specialist equipment or field work expenses, for example?
- Draft timeline
- Expectations of investigation results; the “so what?” question.

### Length of the Proposal

There is no minimum word length but to address all of the points above will require at least one to two pages.