**Research Proposal**

**Module: Decision making methods/tools – Postgraduate level Business Degree**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

* **The Research Proposal should be consistent with the degree/module stated above**
* **The standard of English must be consistent with British standards**
* **Research study should be UK (Not American) based**
* **Please send it to me in Microsoft Word format**
* **Please follow the structural format shown at the end of this page**
* **Word-count: 2850 words -/+ 10% - Harvard style referencing**

You are about to commence a new research project in a field of your choice. You are
expected to write a report that constitutes a research proposal. You should carry out the following tasks and document them in your report:

1. Undertake a literature review highlighting the current state of the art.

2. Taking into account the current state of the art highlight the novelty and contribution
to knowledge upon successful [completion](http://www.justanswer.com/essays/8bzhj-mba604-research-proposal-30-you-commence.html) of your project.

3. Do a feasibility study to assess the likelihood of the project being completed and
producing useful results. If possible, the feasibility study should contain some
preliminary results (e.g. a pilot data set and initial data analysis).

4. Present the research methodology you plan to follow. Include a description of your
planned approach for data analysis including the statistical techniques you are
planning to use.

5. Produce a project plan for your research project (ideally to be presented with the aid
of a [Gantt chart](http://www.justanswer.com/essays/8bzhj-mba604-research-proposal-30-you-commence.html)) showing the [breakdown](http://www.justanswer.com/essays/8bzhj-mba604-research-proposal-30-you-commence.html) of processes constituting the project,
highlighting the dependencies between them and hence showing those that can be run
in parallel. Decide and present the various deadlines, milestones and deliverables. If
more than one person is to be involved specify which tasks will be delegated to
whom. As part of your project plan comment on your contingency plan i.e. what
alternative steps you have to follow in case your original planning fails.

6. Produce a costing report for the various resources you will need (manpower,
equipment, consumables, consultancy, travel etc).

7. Highlight the relevance to beneficiaries, i.e. who will benefit by the business/research
findings and how.

8. Briefly mention how the business/research findings will be disseminated (e.g.
conferences, workshops, seminars, journal publications, press releases).

9. Present the track record of the investigators involved, demonstrating why they would
be capable of undertaking and completing such a project.

10. Conclude and summarize your report.
11. Include a reference and bibliographical list. Make sure you use a formal referencing
scheme (e.g. Harvard, Vancouver).

12. If necessary include appendices to provide additional material relevant to the
document.

13. Word-count: 2850 words -/+ 10% - Harvard style referencing
(If you are exceeding 3000 words, please move some material to the appendices)
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**Structuring the research proposal**

**1. Introduction** (~200 words)

*Explain the issue you are examining and why it is significant.*

* Describe the general area to be studied
* Explain why this area is important to the general area under study (e.g., psychology of language, second language acquisition, teaching methods)

**2. Background/Review of the Literature** (~1000 words)

*A description of what has already known about this area and short discussion of why the background studies are not sufficient.*

* Summarise what is already known about the field. Include a summary of the basic background information on the topic gleaned from your literature review
* Discuss several critical studies that have already been done in this area (cite according to Harvard style).
* Point out why these background studies are insufficient. In other words, what question(s) do they leave unresolved that you would like to study?

**3. Research Objective** (~500 words)

*A contextualisation and description of the questions you are examining and an exploration of the claims.*

* Outline the methodological position you will take (ontology and epistemology)
* Outline the overarching research aim, objective or hypothesis that you will explore.
* List the specific question(s) that you are exploring.
* Explain how these research questions are related to the larger issues raised in the introduction.

**4. Method and Design** (~900 words)

*A description of how you would go about collecting data and test the questions your are exploring. (You are not required to come up with a new or original method!).*

* Describe the general method you choose for your study, in order to explore your research objective or test your hypothesis(es).
* Explain why this method is the best for your purposes.
* Explain any potential difficulties in collecting data and how these will be overcome
* Explain the design features that ensure acceptability for ethical purposes
* Describe the participants (if any) and explain how you selected the sample
* Explain how you will present the collected data and how it will be able to be analysed the results to explore the research aim or to test the research hypothesis

**5. Significance and Conclusion** (~400 words)

*Discuss, in general, how your proposed research would lead to a significant improvement over the original studies, and how it would benefit the field. (In other words, why should someone care?*

**6. References** (not in word count)

**Include all references (Including in-text referencing) in Harvard style.**

**Appendix:** (not in word count)

Dissertation structure in chapters

Gantt Chart or timeline