

Suggestions for PhD Research Proposal

Length: 1500-3000 words

Preamble:

State in a few words exactly what it is you want to find out?

How will this work contribute to the field?

1. Brief background to the study (i.e., literature review) (1-3 pages)

(At this point all this needs to be is an indication of your awareness of the major work in the field and how your research will be situated)

2. Proposed research question(s) based on the above

3. Proposed methodology (1-2 pages)

(If you are considering quasi-experimental or experimental research, carefully consider your research design in terms of internal and external validity - see Felix (2004))

4. Availability of resources to complete the study based on point 3

(including ability to carry out statistical analyses if applicable)

5. Predicted timeline for each stage (i.e., data collection, analysis, writing up, etc)

6. Predicted outcomes (i.e., what makes this study significant)

7. Reference list

Reference:

Felix, U (2004) "Analyzing recent CALL effectiveness research: Towards a common agenda." *CALL*, 18 (1&2), 1-33.

This paper contains a number of references related to effectiveness research which needs to be consulted if you are thinking of embarking on research situated in this field (i.e. comparing methods, evaluating software/ Websites/ methods, carrying out meta-analyses)

It also contains suggestions for PhD projects