HDR Research Proposal Template

Faculty of Business and Law

***Instructions:***

1. Writing a research proposal is a requirement for application to Higher Degree Research at QUT.
2. This template may be used as a suggested format for your Research Proposal for Application. You do not have to use this template, however it is recommended that you structure your research proposal according to the following sections and headings.
3. It is recommended that you prepare your Research Proposal electronically using a clear and legible font size and adhere to the page limit indicated.
4. **Overall word limit:** No set word limit, however 5 to 6 pages is recommended.

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| --- | --- |
| **Applicant’s name** |  |
| **QUT application ID** |  |
| **Degree** | Choose an item |
| **School** | Choose an item |
| **Principal supervisor’s name** |  |

1. **Research project title**

This is the working/draft title for the project.

1. **Research project summary**

Provide a brief overview of the project, similar to an abstract or executive summary.

1. **Research problem**

Using references to existing research, identify the current research problem or challenge that is the intended focus of your proposed research.

1. **Project (research topic) details**

Provide a brief statement under each of the headings below.

* 1. **Literature review**

Provide a brief review of the literature for the area of research interest. This sets the scene and context for the research topic. It should define the problem, its causes, its extent and its significance. Ensure the literature review is grounded in the academic literature and includes citations.

* 1. **Research aims, questions and/or hypotheses**

Outline the research aims, questions and/or hypotheses to be addressed. Ensure the research aims, questions and/or hypotheses reflect the research problem developed in the brief literature review.

* 1. **Theoretical framework**

Outline the potential theory or theories you have considered to investigate the research problem.

* 1. **Research methods**

Describe the potential methods of research you have considered. For example, archival/library study, analysis of existing data sets, laboratory/field research, use of quantitative or qualitative methods, etc.

Provide details of any resources identified as required to conduct this research such as the materials/equipment you intend to use (surveys, interviews, purchase of specialised datasets, space/lab hire, etc.).

* 1. **Significance / contribution of research**

Outline the justification for the research project based on the literature reviewed, i.e., outline what it is that we currently do not know but will know after your study is completed, and why is it important to know this. Describe what the research will add to the body of existing knowledge and the impact on the discipline.

This section should be used to demonstrate how your research aligns with the existing key research areas or research strategic goals of the faculty/discipline to which you are applying.

1. **References**

Provide a list of references cited in the research proposal.