

Honours Fellowship Research Application

A research proposal should clearly articulate the research question and its importance to convince the adjudication committee that a student has a worthwhile research project as well as competence, and a well-developed plan to complete it. A research proposal should contain all the key elements involved in the research process and include sufficient information for the committee to evaluate the proposed study.

Regardless of the research area and the methodology chosen, all research proposals must address the following questions:

(Please keep to the stated page limit when providing your responses)

1. What is your research question or topic and why is it important?

The focus for the research and its importance should be clearly and briefly articulated (1/2 page max).

2. What does the current body of research have to say on this topic or question?

Highlight and discuss the most important literature and findings for the chosen question or topic (1 page max).

3. What are the empirical approaches used in the literature to explore this question or topic?

Explain the major empirical approaches and under what circumstances they are appropriate – as examples, specific regression techniques for certain types of data, survey construction and analysis, experiments and design (1/2 page max).

4. What work have you completed on this question/topic prior to the fellowship period?

Discuss any prior literature review, empirical work or other, in prior courses or in research assistantships (1/2 page max).

5. What work has your supervisor completed on this question/topic prior to the fellowship period?

Discuss related work, completed or in-progress, by your supervisor and how your research plans fit in with your supervisor's research agenda (1/2 page max).

6. What are you planning to accomplish during the fellowship period?

Explain the objectives for the research period, and explain how these build on previous work (1 page max).

If considerable work has already been completed by you and/or your supervisor, briefly list any additional literature to be reviewed, describe the methodological approach and empirical work to be completed and how this builds on previous work, and what tasks will remain following the fellowship period; for work focusing on quantitative analysis using secondary data, the source and nature of the data should be discussed as well as the estimation techniques to be applied; for quantitative or qualitative research based on primary data (including surveys, interviews, experiments, etc.), the data collection should be clearly described (design of the study, subjects or participants, instruments, and procedure).

If this is relatively new work for you, list literature to be reviewed, which empirical methodologies may be appropriate given your current understanding of the literature, how you might tailor and implement them for your use, and what tasks will remain following the fellowship period; with a literature review as a main focus for this type of proposal, a systematic review plan (review/search methodology) and preliminary literature list should be included.

7. What is your work timeline for your research?

Provide a work timeline in a table for the fellowship period and for afterwards.

The research proposal has to provide a well-laid out plan for steps to be taken to tackle the research question and research output to be produced at each stage of the research process. It should provide a clear explanation of the amount of time required to complete each step/stage to justify full-time or part-time employment in the project. It should also include a timeline for remaining research steps to be completed following the fellowship period.