

PhD by Research - Research Proposal Guidelines

At the application stage we expect the Research Outline to be approximately three to four A4 pages long and should, to the extent feasible, cover the following points:

- the main question or problems to be tackled
- why is this being investigated; why is it interesting and important; what is its analytical significance and/or policy relevance?
- how will the question be approached; to what extent is this approach distinctive or new?
- based on a survey of relevant literature and past research, what hypotheses or hunches will be explored, what questions asked?
- the broad overall structure of the dissertation (specific chapter headings are not necessary).
- what programme of research will be followed, including field work, and how will this relate to the hypothesis?
- what contribution might this work make to our knowledge and understanding of the field?