

Template - Research plan exposé

Your exposé should contain the following elements:

Working title: A short title that reflects your general research question and expected results.

Section 1 – Introduction

Background and State of Research: A well-focused summary of current knowledge relevant to the aims for your study should be given here. Here you should identify the research gap and show how the aims and/or hypotheses of your research follow from this research. Cited literature should be limited to the most relevant findings.

Research question(s) and objectives: Please give a concise description of the scientific questions you hope to address. Make sure that your objectives can be realistically reached within the given time.

Significance statement: Clearly state the significance and novelty of your study, highlight why your work is timely and necessary.

Research hypothesis/es: Clearly state 1-5 hypotheses for your thesis.

Section 2 – Materials and Methods

Research methods: Please give a detailed account of the methods and experimental designs you will apply to test your hypothesis/es. Please provide a detailed description of the methods that you plan to use in the project, e.g., how many samples you will need to take, how they will be collected or selected, will they be replicated, etc. If you need to develop new methods on which your entire research depends, make sure to have an alternative plan in case the method does not workout within a predefined time span.

Experimental design: Describe your study area, region, or topic with 2-6 lines.

Analytical Methods: Clearly state all tests and analytical methods you plan to use with your data, as well as any software (if necessary). Include relevant references.

Section 3 – Planning and Timeline

Work schedule with defined stages: Please give a detailed list of stages or steps planned during the proposed research period. Each stage should be listed with an expected deadline. For experimental projects, a schedule listing all planned experiments should be provided.

Expected challenges: State all possible problems you may encounter during the project and how you would handle them.