

TD School HDR Research Proposal

Name:

Degree: PhD / MRes

Proposed Supervisor:

Note: Please work with your potential supervisors to develop your research proposal using this template before submission and just keep the headings.

Recommended length: 4-8 pages (not including references)

Please note: The research proposal is developed with feedback from proposed supervisors. It is normal for several iterations of this document before submission to ensure a high-quality proposal, please allow time for this process.

Project Title

Provide a concise and descriptive title for your proposed research project. The title should reflect the core focus and potential contribution of your study.

Lay Summary (200 words)

Present a clear and accessible summary of your research project. Explain the complex challenge you are exploring and/or purpose of your study in lay terms. Outline your approach to engaging in this issue, and potential (aspirational) impacts and/or outcomes of your research. The summary should be understandable to a non-specialist audience.

Introduction and Significance (1/2 page)

Begin by outlining the broader research challenge and gradually narrow down to the specific issue your study will address. Justify the importance of your research by explaining its relevance, potential beneficiaries, practical applications, and contribution to academic knowledge.

Literature and Practice Review, Background and Context (up to 2 pages)

Provide a **review of the existing literature** and, where relevant, professional practice related to your research topic. Demonstrate familiarity with key peer-reviewed scholarly works highlighting key findings and theoretical developments. Critically evaluate the literature to identify research opportunities or limitations that your research intends to address. This section should provide background and context for your research and establish the foundation for your research questions.

Proposed Research Questions, Aims & Objectives (up to 1 page)

Clearly articulate the **research questions** your study will explore, ensuring they logically emerge from the literature review. In addition to listing your research questions, make a case for the rationale behind your questions.

Specify three to four key **aims and/or objectives** that define what your research seeks to achieve.

Potential Research Design (up to 2 pages and encourage use of figures/diagrams/visuals)

Describe your preliminary **conceptual framework**, including relevant theories and concepts that will guide your study. Explain the chosen **methodology** and justify its suitability for your research questions. Detail the types of data required, sources of data, and methods of **data collection** such as co-design workshops, field observation, case studies, surveys, interviews, arts-based approaches or an alternative method. Outline your initial approach to **data analysis** and interpretation. Address **ethical considerations**, particularly if your research involves human or animal subjects, and describe how informed consent will be obtained.

Other things you may wish to consider:

- The **type of thesis** – e.g. whether you intend to complete a traditional thesis, a thesis by compilation (i.e. including publishable works, such as journal articles) or a practice-based thesis (i.e. composed of an exegesis and creative / knowledge artefacts).
- Who this research is for, and how they might be involved in the research, and how you will set up these relationships, if they are not already established.
- How you will reflexively monitor, evaluate and measure the impact of your research during your candidature.

Research Plan and Timetable (up to 1 page, including visuals such as a Gantt chart)

Summarise the key phases of your research project (if not defined in your research design section) and provide an indicative timeline, structured in six-month intervals over the duration of your candidature. Include milestones such as literature review completion, data collection, analysis, and writing-up. Include consideration of timelines for obtaining ethics, if required.

Why do you want to join Transdisciplinary School? (up to 1/2 page)

Outline why you want to be part of Transdisciplinary School, UTS, and why you think it's a good fit for your research aspirations. Discuss alignments with your supervisor's research and reflect on your experiences and expertise that you bring to this. We invite you to also share your story about why you want to embark on this proposed research journey now? This may include discussion of how your research may cross disciplinary boundaries; across which disciplines/disciplinary domains and any transdisciplinary methods or frameworks being considered.

Budget (up to 1 page)

Estimate the financial requirements of your research and ways in which you intend to cover these costs. Make a distinction between project-related costs (e.g., travel, fieldwork, software) and personal expenses (e.g., living allowance, tuition fees). Identify any additional funding sources needed and outline how these costs will be managed. Indicate whether you are applying for a scholarship to help support you with these costs.

References

Provide a complete list of all references cited in your proposal. Ensure that your reference list adheres to a consistent academic citation style, such as APA.