

Introduction

This document describes a brief but entirely acceptable format for a project proposal. It is intended specifically for projects that are in an early stage of development, and where the detail may not have been established.

Submit a summary of the proposed research project using the following section headings.

- **Student Name**
- **Project title**
- **Supervisor:** Include the names and roles of the supervisory team members, together with contact details (Newcastle email address)
- **Literature review:** List a few key published papers which support the need for your proposed research project. A comprehensive literature review is not required at this stage – just sufficient to demonstrate that the research question(s) is justified by the literature. You should reference published literature in your **Project need** section.
- **Project Aims:** Ensure that these are written clearly identified.
- **Project need:** Briefly justify the need for the project – consider the potential impact on basic knowledge, scientific practice, clinical practice or patient outcomes. At this stage in your research training, your work should add new knowledge rather than being simply an exercise in research methods.
- **Research methods:** Briefly outline the project plan and demonstrate how this will answer the project aims/research question(s) posed. Provide as much detail as you are able at this stage of your project development.
- **Statistical analysis:** Outline the plan for statistical analysis of data (if appropriate). Will you require statistical support from the university for your project?
- **Future directions:** If you have not got a well-formed outline for the entire postgraduate study, then set down the unknowns and explain the key decision points.
- **Research governance arrangements:** What are they (if any) and are they in hand?
- **Cost analysis:** Are there any costs associated with the project and is funding available?

Considering the document as a whole, you may find it useful to think about the five Ws and an H:

WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, and HOW?

Assessment

The project reviewers use the following form to provide feedback.

Background/Scientific merit	Yes	No
Is the work of interest and relevance to the scientific community?		
Will the research fill an identified gap in the current research knowledge?		
Are the aims/objectives of the research project clearly stated?		
Does the project have clearly identified outcomes?		
Is there a suitable workplace clinical supervisor who can provide appropriate guidance?		*
Further comments		
<p><i>* if no, what additional input is required</i></p>		

Methodology/Design issues	Yes	No
Has a clear rationale been given for the proposed methodology?		
Is the method clearly and adequately described?		
Is the proposed analysis appropriate for the method?		
Further comments		

- A. Is the proposed project suitable for the level? yes no *
- B. Is the proposed research project academically well founded? yes no *
- C. Is the project achievable within available time and resources? yes no *
- D. Do you have any concerns about ethics or governance issues? yes *no

Overall comments / Suggestions for improvement
<p><i>* state what must be done to improve the proposal or address your concerns</i></p>