Guidelines for writing a 500-1000 word Research Proposal
to accompany applications for admission to Higher Degree Research candidature

Applications for admission to higher degree research candidature (PhD or Master of Applied Science) must be accompanied by a (minimum 500-word) preliminary research proposal. Students should complete the Research Proposal Form for this purpose.

The purpose of the proposal is to encourage pre-enrolment planning/preparation by the student and the research supervisor that will assist prompt commencement of research work and timely completion of the candidature. The written plan also provides the supervisor with an opportunity to judge the applicant’s writing skills.

The candidate should include information that clearly demonstrates that suitable preparation has occurred. This information will obviously vary quite widely but as a minimum, the proposal could include, but is not limited to, the following:

**Thesis Title:** Working title for the thesis.

**Supervisors:** Name(s) of the supervisor or other academic staff with whom you have discussed your proposal and/or candidature.

**Summary:** Statement of the issue your research will address. Description of the context and background reading leading to your interest in this research question and the hypothesis to be investigated. (max 500 words)

**Contribution:** Brief explanation of why the research question is significant. (approx. 50 words)

**Methods:** The research methods or approach to be used. This should include an overview of the research plan, including the research design. Different types of questions will require different components. If known, please include any inclusion/exclusion criteria and size/number of participants, recruitment and feasibility (approx. 300 words)

**Resources:** List any personnel, equipment, space and budget resources required for this project, if applicable and only if you are able to identify any of these requirements.

**Note:** Where research facilities/equipment/resources beyond the infrastructure normally provided by the Faculty Research Group are specified, the plan should note how these will be accessed.

The expectation is that the supervisor will have read and commented on drafts of the research proposal then signed the final version prior to submission of the application for candidature. The proposal will be reviewed with the application by the Associate Dean Research Students, who is required to ensure, before admission to research degree candidature, that there is a high likelihood of a successful outcome.

June 2016