

Indicative Guidelines for Research Proposal

05 December 2023

Components of the Proposal:

The research proposal needs to include the following components, preferably in the order listed here:

1. Introduction/background

‘What’, ‘Why’ and ‘How’ of your research.

§ What do you want to study/problematize/look at/examine?

§ Why are you interested in the topic of your choice? What is the relevance of your study? What is the value addition that you seek to provide?

§ How do you plan to examine the topic: stating your methodology and strategy.

2. Review of the literature and identification of literature gap

This would form the bulk of proposal. Please do not write a bibliographical essay. You need to review the existing literature and connect different scholarly works/other sources that make them relevant to your research question. Situate your arguments in and around the existing works. A thematic review is advisable. Cite all sources that you include even indirectly in your paper. Follow in-text citations and mention the last name of Author with Year in parentheses. Eg. (Sarkar, 1919)

Avoid footnotes and stick to in-text citation.

3. Definition, Rationale and Scope of the study

Define the study, provide working definition of key terms

Provide rationale/justification, identify gap and state the value addition

State the limitations – what the research is not able to do

4. Research Question and Hypothesis

- Statement of Research Problem
- Central Question
- Related Questions

There has to be one (or more) clear research questions and corresponding hypothesis (hypotheses). Your hypothesis is the tentative answer to your research question.

5. Research Methodology

Stating your methodology and strategy in detail. This can include your theoretical framework, and the type of source you want to consult. You can mention about the qualitative/quantitative/narrative/theoretical approach that you seek to follow and explain it. If you plan to use case study/studies, justify the choice. This will depend on the work.

6. Tentative Chapterisation

Mention the headings of tentative chapters with a brief description of the content of each chapter.

7. Bibliography

Cite all sources in alphabetical order, last name first.

Refer to the examples below for specific source types:

Chapter in an Edited Volume

Shue, H. (2004), "Limiting Sovereignty", in J.M. Welsh (ed.), *Humanitarian Intervention and International Relations* (pp. 11-28). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Article in a Journal

Doyle, M.W. (1983), "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs", *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 12 (3): 205-235.

Book

Brown, C. (1992), *International Relations Theory: New Normative Approaches*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Newspaper Article

Chishti, S. (2014, November 29), "Biggest Caste Survey: One in Four Indians Admit to Practising Untouchability", *The Indian Express*, New Delhi, p. 5.

Government/Non-Government Organization Publications/ Acts

UN (March 2011), *UNSC Resolution 1973*, *UN Doc. S/RES/1973*. Retrieved from [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1973\(2011\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1973(2011))

Government of India (1993), *The National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993, No.27 of 1993*. Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs (Legislative Department), New Delhi.

Internet Documents

Kak, S. (2018), "Indian Foundations of Modern Science". Retrieved from <https://subhashkak.medium.com/indian-foundations-of-modern-science-72259046700f>

Text style:

The main text should be in Times New Roman, Font size 12, 1.5 spacing, default black font.

Page margins should be 1.5 inch (3.81 cm) on left and 1 inch (2.54 cm) on all other sides.

Direct quotations should be single spaced, left indented and double quoted.

Sub-headings should be **bold** and level 2 subheadings should *italicised*.

Proposal has to be typed and not handwritten.

For Hindi proposals, use Mangal (or any Unicode) font.

Word Range:

3500 - 7000 words.

About plagiarism:

Plagiarism/similarity over 18% will invite penalty. Plagiarism implies using others' arguments without acknowledging the same. You need to use in-text citation in your paper even if you use others' arguments indirectly or paraphrase those arguments. In case of doubt, it is better to over-cite.