

Research Proposal Information Sheet

Higher Degree by Research Students

As part of Milestone 1 (Candidacy) you are required to submit a written proposal outlining the research project you will undertake and how the research will be conducted.

Please read this information sheet as a guide – different disciplines are likely to have particular requirements.

Length

For a Masters by Research course the proposal should be a maximum of 5 pages, excluding references.

For a Doctoral degree the proposal should be a maximum of 10 pages, excluding references.

Sections to be included

Proposals should include the following elements:

- 1. Title and Abstract*
State the proposed title of the project and provide an abstract.
- 2. Background*
This includes a review of the literature in the field and situates the project within the existing research in the field.
- 3. Methodology and Methods*
You need to provide detailed information on your research methodology and methods including an explanation of why this is the most appropriate approach to take.
- 4. Timeline*
Include a timeline demonstrating how you will complete the research over the allocated time. This should preferably take the form of a Gantt chart.
- 5. Full project budget*
This should, where relevant, include any contributions from sources including your School, any external or industry contributions, Research Office at Curtin support (Research Support Funds) and any other sources of funding. You may use the template provided below and copy and paste it into your proposal. Examples of student budgets from different disciplines can be found on the [GRS Milestones](#) website under Supporting Information for Milestone 1.

Further Considerations

Audience

The research proposal should be aimed at someone who is an academic expert in a different discipline to that of your research.

Research Question, Aims and Objectives

You should be able to identify a central question which the research sets out to address. The aims and objectives of the research will help you identify the steps you will take to achieve this.

Ethics

All research projects should demonstrate a consideration of the ethical issues of the research.

Significance

Milestone 1 provides an opportunity to articulate the importance of the project you are undertaking, both within the field of research and more broadly.

Higher Degree by Research Project Budget (Template)

Please consult your supervisor regarding the types of expenses which you need to consider in preparing your budget. It is important that you familiarise yourself with the regulations regarding the [Essential Facilities and Research Support Funds](#) available to HDR students. Examples of HDR student budgets can be found under the *Supporting Information for Milestone 1* section of the [GRS Milestones](#) website.

1. If you wish to use this budget template, you can copy and paste the completed table into your research proposal.
2. You can insert and delete rows as necessary. Masters by Research students should only complete Years 1 and 2.
3. You do not have to use this budget template, however, you should still ensure you include a budget in your research proposal.

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Important: Your Milestone 1 budget does not supersede any the Policies, Procedures and Guidelines of Curtin University, or any agreements related to any external funding agreement your project may be associated with.