

The University of Leeds
School of Modern languages and Cultures



Postgraduate Study: Research Proposal

Introduction

Before a formal application can be made, we normally require a CV and a research proposal. In some cases, however (e.g. where you have already identified a specific member of staff whom you wish to supervise your research), you may first make an informal enquiry to the member of staff concerned. But, in all cases, a formal research proposal must be submitted before a decision about the application can be made.

Formal research proposals vary in length according to the nature of the project. If you require further guidance on this, you should contact the appropriate department or centre. But what matters most is what goes into the proposal. The following provides some general guidance.

Proposal

The research proposal should clearly outline the issues to be researched and their importance, theoretical and methodological approaches, primary sources to be analysed, and personal ability to undertake the research.

The proposal is likely to contain all or most of the following:

- ❑ a short literature review and including academic references.
- ❑ an identification of gaps in theory and empirical work, from which the research questions should be generated.
- ❑ a proposed research method and an explanation of why this method is the appropriate one, with which to address the research questions.

- ❑ preferably, the prospective applicant should indicate his/her own experience in the field of the proposed research, how the research interest links up with previous activities, and which special skills (language, access to sources, analytical methods) he/she possesses to conduct the proposed research.

Following the proposal

If your research fits in with one of the departmental fields of interest, we will notify you of the availability of a supervisor and ask you to submit a postgraduate research application. You can either download a form or request that one is sent to you by post.

- Download: <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/students/appfmweb.doc>
- Request a form: <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/rds/formnote.htm>

Contacts

If you have any questions regarding the application for research postgraduate study at the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, contact us at: smlcpgresearch@leeds.ac.uk

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