



**TURFLOOP GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP**

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**Research Proposal and  
Submission for Ratification of Research Proposal by the School Higher Degrees Committee**

<b>Faculty</b>	
<b>Department</b>	
<b>Qualification registered for (e.g. Master of Development-MDEV)</b>	

<b>Student Surname</b>				
<b>First Names</b>				
<b>Student number</b>				
<b>Postal Address</b>				
<b>Tel (W)</b>	<b>Tel (H)</b>	<b>Cell</b>	<b>Fax</b>	<b>e-Mail</b>
<b>Provisional title of Mini Dissertation (Maximum 25 words)</b>	<i>The title should be should be a concise summary of the proposed study. It should not be lengthy and too detailed. However, where there is causation between variables, this should be clear in the title.</i>			

<b>Supervisor</b>	
<b>Co-Supervisor</b>	
<b><i>N.B. Any subsequent change of supervisor/s needs to be submitted to the Head of Department for ratification (i.e. in a memo).</i></b>	

<b>Introduction (Maximum 200 words)</b>
<p><i>The introduction lays the groundwork for the problem statement. It provides the basis of the research and justifies the topic. While avoiding overlap with the problem statement and literature review, the introduction provides the details that are especially pertinent to the proposed work, what is currently known about the problem and articulated policy statements (if any) that are related to the problem. The introduction brings the problem into sharp focus, thus making it easier to articulate the problem statement.</i></p> <p><b>Clearly introduce the research topic.</b></p>

**Problem statement (350 words)**

*Reflect on among others: what is the problem; what is the context of the problem, where does the problem reside; what is the extent and magnitude of the problem; why is the problem important for researching; has the problem been researched before; what do other researchers say about the problem?. Be careful not to confuse this with literature review!*

**Leading from the introduction, clearly articulate the problem statement.**

**Motivation/rationale for the study (Maximum 75 words)**

*Why did you choose to undertake this study? Reflect on whether the study generates new knowledge, whether the study fills gaps in existing knowledge, or resolves current controversies or challenges? For instance it is inadequate to simply state that the study generates new knowledge. If the study does generate new knowledge, it is important to discuss what knowledge is generated, how, and why it is generated. A doctoral study always generates new knowledge and needs to be original. However, in a Master's study it is possible to replicate a study with the motivation of checking if the results will be the same as in a former study.*

**Clearly state the rationale/motivation of the study.**

**Significance of the study (Maximum 75 words)**

*In what way will the study make a contribution to existing knowledge and or policy? State the anticipated outcomes of the study in relation to theory, practice, policy, and personal learning. Identify social groups and academic disciplines that might benefit from the study.*

**Clearly state the significance of the study**

**Aim of the study (Maximum 100 words)**

*Reflect on what is the purpose of conducting the research. Broadly, what is the study meant to accomplish. It is a broad statement of what the research intends to achieve?*

**Clearly state the aim of the study.**

**Objectives (Maximum 100 words)**

*Objectives are the achievable, outcome-based aims of your research. They are concise statements that describe what the study will accomplish. Reflect on specifics, and provide a statement or statements on what the study achieves at completion. Words such as discover, explain, evaluate, determine are useful in stating objectives.*

**Clearly state the objectives of the study.**

**Research Questions/Hypotheses (Maximum 100 words)****Research Questions:**

*These are the questions that will be addressed by the study. Research questions **MUST** be unambiguous. Research questions guide the study because ultimately addressing the research questions defines the conclusion of the study. The questions are linked to the objectives in that when the questions are adequately addressed, the objectives are simultaneously accomplished.*

**Clearly state the research questions to be addressed by the study.**

**Hypotheses:**

*Hypotheses need not necessarily be explicitly stated. In many social studies, the research questions provide adequate implicit statements of the hypotheses. In some studies, however, the relationship between two variables may need to be predicted on the basis of current knowledge. An example from an experimental study could be: The application of fertiliser to maize increases yields. Hypotheses need to be very clear and testable. In the above example, if fertiliser is applied after the maturity of the maize, it will not increase yields so the timing of the fertiliser application may need to be clearly stated in the hypotheses. Social; studies can also have explicitly stated hypotheses. An example could be: Social cohesion increases the success of LED projects. Hypotheses guide the study in a similar way as the research questions. Whether to state both research questions and hypotheses is a judgement call made by the researcher. However, research questions **MUST** always be stated.*

**Clearly state the hypotheses (Where applicable).**

**Literature review (Maximum 450 words)**

*Are there studies that have been carried out addressing the stated problem or similar? What are the conclusions reached by the studies? What are the gaps in the existing literature related to the problem? This also partly clarifies why it is important to conduct the study and whether the problem is researchable.*

*Review **KEY** literature related to the problem. If the study is really exploratory, there may be no studies conducted on the problem so it is essential to review **related** literature. Examples of literature include peer reviewed journal articles (very important), working papers and reports (government, NGOs, private sector etc.). Review at least 5 **KEY** peer reviewed and preferably recent (last 10 years), journal articles related to the problem statement. Avoid only reviewing working papers, and reports as your literature review. Organisations like Statistics South Africa (STATSSA) are not sources of literature. They are source of statistics which, for the most part, can be used in Introduction, Problem Statement and at times in Motivation and Significance. In literature review statistics can be used to bolster positions stated by other researchers, to update statistics cited in former studies (if the statistics have changed) and/or to identify knowledge gaps.*

**Provide a literature review which includes journal articles.**

#### **Definition of concepts (Maximum 200 words)**

*Key concepts related to your study need to be defined. Usually about 4 (or less) key concepts will be adequate. Think very clearly about why you may need to define more than four key concepts.*

**Clearly define the key concepts in your study.**

#### **Choice and rationale of research design (Maximum 250 words)**

*Clearly state whether the research paradigm is positivist, anti-positivist or critical theory. Then state whether the research will be qualitative or quantitative. Clearly state the research design that is applicable to the study. Research designs include action research, case study, causal, cohort, cross-section, descriptive, experimental, exploratory, historical, longitudinal, observational, philosophical, sequential, grounded theory, ethnographic etc. The rationale (justification) for choosing the research design must be clearly stated. Why is the research design the most appropriate for the study?*

**Clearly state the paradigm.**

**Clearly state the research design and the rationale for the choice.**

#### **Study area (Maximum 50 words)**

*Usually a study covers a geographic area which can be clearly defined. If the area cannot be defined geographically, then the demarcation criteria need to be specified.*

**Clearly state the study area.**

#### **Population (Maximum 50 words)**

*The population of a study should be defined in advance. Inclusion and exclusion of units from the study population must be unambiguous as this affects the ability to generalise from the study because generalisations can only be made to the population or similar groups. The units of the population are the units of analysis that are used for sampling. Collectively, the study units make the population of the study. Studies in qualitative methods sometimes do not aim to generalise the findings. However, even in single unit case studies, a population can usually be identified*

**Clearly state the population of the study.**

#### **Sample, sampling methods and sample size (Maximum 150 words)**

**Sample:**

*This is a subset of a population selected by a defined procedure In statistics samples must be statistically*

representative. They must represent the population enough to be able to extrapolate/generalise findings to the population. The issues related to statistical representativeness do not apply to qualitative studies where the objectives do not include generalisation. A sample is selected using a sampling method.

**Sampling methods:**

Sampling methods are used to select a sample from within a general population. Ideally, sampling methods eliminate bias in the selection process. Commonly used sampling methods include simple random sampling, systematic sampling, stratified random sampling and matched random sampling. Sometimes the most suitable sampling method is purposive sampling.

The sampling method and sampling method must be justified.

**Clearly state the sampling method and the sample size.**

**Data collection (Maximum 75 words)**

**Data collection:**

Data collection methods include procedures and instruments to be used. For example will survey (structured or unstructured) questionnaires be used or will the data be collected from interview guides or interviews using voice recorders. Specify what kind of data will be collected. For example data will be collected on labour use, fertiliser applied and yields of maize. In specifying the type and quantity of data to be collected reflect on research questions and hypotheses (if any). The data must be able to address the research questions/hypotheses adequately.

**Clearly describe your data and data collection methods.**

**Data analysis (Maximum 75 words)**

Include all data manipulation techniques to be used and the (statistical) tests to be performed. For example the Chi-Square test for association will be used to test for association between social cohesion and the success of LED projects. In qualitative analysis there may be no application of statistical tests. However, the techniques for data manipulation should be clearly stated and described. It is also advisable to mention the software (if any) that will be used for data analysis e.g. SPSS for quantitative analysis and ENVIVO for qualitative analysis. Data analysis **MUST fully** address the research questions and hypotheses stated above.

**Clearly describe the analysis you will perform and (where applicable) the software that will be used.**

**Ethical considerations (Maximum 150 words)**

Ethical issues include confidentiality, informed consent and no harm. Sometimes studies need to be cleared by an ethics committee.

**State the ethical consideration related to your study.**

**Research report outline (Maximum 150 words)**

In the outline list all the chapters with a **brief** description of the content of each chapter.

**Provide a report outline**

**References**

List all the references that you have cited in any of the sections above. All references that are cited **MUST** be in the list of references and all listed references **MUST** be cited in the text. Please use the Harvard referencing style.

**Provide a list of references**

**APPROVAL PROCESSES.****1. SUPERVISOR**

(Tick & sign appropriate boxes)

I certify that I am fully satisfied with the originality and science of the proposed study. I have the necessary expertise to supervise the study and hereby present it to the University of Limpopo for approval.

<b>Signature Supervisor</b>		<b>Date</b>	
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**2. DEPARTMENT**

(Tick & sign appropriate boxes)

<b>APPROVED</b>		<b>APPROVED RECOMMENDED CHANGES</b>	<b>WITH</b>		<b>REFERRE D BACK</b>	
<b>Signature HOD</b>				<b>Date</b>		

**3. SCHOOL HIGHER DEGREES COMMITTEE**

(Tick & sign appropriate boxes)

<b>APPROVED</b>		<b>APPROVED RECOMMENDED CHANGES</b>	<b>WITH</b>		<b>REFERRE D BACK</b>	
<b>Signature HDC Chair</b>				<b>Date</b>		