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**Guidelines for Submitting a Proposal for Doctor of Philosophy**

**1.0 Purpose**

These guidelines are intended to help applicants prepare a research proposal for the Doctor of philosophy degree offered by the Faculty of Engineering.

**2.0 Applicability**

These guidelines apply to prospective students applying from October 2023 onwards.

**3.0 Proposal Content**

*3.1 Formatting*

The proposal must be written on A4 paper using single-spaced, twelve-point font in the text. The length of the proposal, including front page, figures, tables and references, should normally be approximately 3,000 words. A template of the front page can be found at the end of this document.

*3.2 Content*

The content expected by the candidate consists of the following:

a) The Provisional Title

b) Introduction (provide an overview and the essential background to the proposed research: around 700 words)

c) Research Issues in your Area of Study (discuss the context of the proposed research as well as existing gaps in knowledge: around 700 words)

d) Aims, Research Questions and Hypotheses (give a concise, clear - cut and unambiguous outline: around 250 words)

e) Significance of the Proposed Research (describe the value of the research project to academia, to specific communities and to other fields: around 500 words)

f) Research Methodology, Plan Over time and Ethical Considerations (outline the proposed project methodology and schedule – the plan over time should be presented as a Gantt Chart covering the full period of the PhD studies; check whether the proposed research work requires any clearance from the University Research Ethics Committee. If it is the case, indicate clearly the ethical issues at play: around 500 words)

g) Key References (at least five main key references)

h) If a third party is involved, a binding letter of intent and IP agreement has to be attached

i) An initial plan for Professional Development Activities (100 hours of professional development activities will be required before submission of PhD thesis, to be prepared in consultation with the proposed principal supervisor)

j) Signature and statement from proposed principal supervisor.

k) Recommendation from the Head of the Department. The recommendation should include confirmation that the Department was consulted on the proposed research and that there is agreement that the research topic and proposal are acceptable, and the research is feasible.

l) Declaration of research resources

**3.3 Submission**

The application and a signed copy of the original proposal should be handed to the Faculty Office.

An online research proposal form must also be submitted to the Doctoral School. Items a) to g) listed in section 3.2 correspond to the mandatory sections of the Doctoral School research proposal form. The text for these items should therefore be the same as that submitted in the Doctoral School proposal form, while items h) to l) are Faculty requirements and these are to be included in the application submitted to the Faculty only.



FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

Department of [XXXXXXX]

[Title of Proposal]

by

[Name of student]

**Proposed Supervisor**: [Name of Supervisor]

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|  | DEPARTMENT OF [XXXXXX] |
| **Ph.D. PROPOSAL****DECLARATION OF RESEARCH RESOURCES** |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Student Name:** |  | **ID** |  |

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| --- |
| **Proposed Title of Thesis:** |
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|  |
| **Declaration:** |
| We declare that the required funding and resources to conduct the PhD research are available and sufficient for the full duration of the programme. |
| **Signatures:** | **Principal Supervisor** |  |
|  |  |
| **Head of Department** |  |
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