



**L-Università  
ta' Malta**

## **School of Performing Arts**

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### **Guide to Writing an MMus Research Proposal**

Your proposal should be 750-1000 words long without bibliography (UM PG [Regulations](#))  
The proposal describes your proposed aims for ONE of the following:

#### **Master of Music in Performance**

MSP5001 Performance and Dissertation

#### **Master of Music in Composition**

MSP5002 Portfolio and Dissertation

#### **Master of Music in Musicology/Ethnomusicology**

MSP5020 Dissertation

### **Project Title**

#### **Proposed Supervisor(s)**

Prospective research students are expected to make contact with at least one full-time member of staff in the Department of Music Studies well in advance of final submission of the proposal. Staff profiles and contact information are available on the UM [Department of Music Studies](#) webpages.

#### **Research Background**

- A brief contextualisation of the proposed project. Ensure that you introduce the subject of your research well here.
- What is your rationale for undertaking this project, your reasons for choosing this topic?
- Why is this an important area worth researching?

#### **Research Objectives**

- What do you aim to achieve in the project?
- What do you want to know, prove, demonstrate, analyse, test, investigate or examine in your research?
- What are the research questions (and any associated objectives)? (You may have just one research question or more than one.)

### **Research Methodology**

In this section, you should identify the methodology that underpins your research and give a rationale for your approach. So, give importance to the following:

- The method/s you will use to address your research question (e.g. case study, practice as research, library research, mixed method, etc.)
- Your data collection tools (interviews, participant-observation, ethnography, etc.)
- Details on the selected topic, e.g. who are the musicians that you will focus on? Which performances or audio material will you consider for your research? What is the repertoire that you will perform or focus on? Which scores will you consider for your compositions? etc.)

### **Expected Outcomes and Significance of Project**

- What are the expected outcomes of the project?
- What is the significance of this research to scholarship?

### **Format of Final Project**

- Briefly outline the format of your intended project.
- Suggest how many chapters you will have in the dissertation, chapter headings and the order of presentation, and, as needed, a proposed schedule of performances with repertoire.

### **Timeline**

- Provide a detailed timeline to show the different stages of the project, such as the time you will dedicate for literature review, data collection and fieldwork, analysis, writing, performances, etc.

### **Bibliography**

- Correctly presented in MHRA style, provide details of sources of references included in this proposal, e.g. books, book chapters, articles, etc.
- You may also include here bibliographic sources that you consider as important for your research topic.