

Guidelines to examiner for research proposal evaluation

In the research proposal the student is expected to present a clear description of the particular problem/research question or aspect in the research area in which he/she is interested in pursuing, and explain the proposed approach in studying the subject matter.

The following criteria serve as a guide in evaluating the proposal.

Rating Criterion	Weak	Acceptable	Good
Abstract	Abstract is lack of relevance or fails to offer appropriate details about the issue, context and proposed methods of the study	Abstract is relevant, offering appropriate details about the issue, context and proposed methods of the study	Abstract is informative, succinct, and offers sufficiently specific details about the issue, context and proposed methods of the study
Background and Motivation	Weak overview or irrelevant description of research topic. No motivation or mention of reason why research is to be undertaken	Adequate overview of the proposed research topic but without stating why it is to be undertaken	Comprehensive overview of the proposed research topic citing reasons and background knowledge to motivate research
Aims and Objectives	Poorly worded statement/s of the research questions/aims/objectives or unclear about what is/are to be achieved	Properly worded statement/s of the research questions/aims/objectives indicating a sufficient understanding of what is/are to be achieved	Clear and precise statement/s of the research questions/aims/objectives indicating a thorough understanding of what is/are to be achieved
Literature Review	Insufficient knowledge of related work or citing irrelevant literature on the research problem/question at hand	Familiar with and has cited most key literature on research problem/question at hand	A thorough review of the relevant related work with particular focus on the research problem/question at hand
Methods	Proposed method is inadequate to address research problem/research question	Proposed method is adequate to achieve objective/s of research with some justification of its suitability	Clear and thorough description of proposed method with justification on its suitability. Extra merit is given for detailed steps/procedures in the method
Preliminary evaluation & analysis	Poor evaluation of results/analysis	Demonstrate adequate evaluation of results/analysis	Well-documented evaluation of results/analysis indicating good progress. Extra merit is given to published results
Conclusions	Poor summary without highlighting issues raised in the proposal	Adequate summary highlighting most points in the proposal	Good summary highlighting all issues raised in the proposal
Planning	Inadequate or infeasible timeliness	Feasible timeliness showing the main stages/milestones of the research only	Feasible timeliness showing all the important stages/milestones
Language	Difficult to comprehend. Numerous grammatical errors	Correct grammar and easy to understand	Well-written English composition