

Writing the Research Proposal

(refer to example proposals)

1. **Thesis Title:** should include only details that are key to the research.

e.g., *The effects of altitude training on match recovery in elite male hockey players.*

→ includes independent variable (altitude training), dependent variable (match recovery) and specific population group (elite, male hockey players).

The title of your thesis that is submitted later in the year should carry the same title as listed in your proposal.

2. **Brief Description** (Including Background, Identification of Issue/Problem and Brief Review of Literature)

This section provides a context and rationale for the research that is being proposed, leading to a clear statement of the research question/problem to be addressed. Where appropriate, include also hypotheses related to the research.

3. **Statement of General Aims and Specific Objectives**

What you expect to achieve by undertaking the research? What are primary outcomes? Can be written as dot points.

4. **Method**

Include brief statements about participant population, recruitment of participants, methodology, data analyses, and related ethical risks and safeguards.

5. **Specific Milestones and Time Line**

Provide an indication of when you expect to undertake each component of the research, including: writing and submission of ethics application, recruitment of participants, data collection and analyses, and writing of thesis chapters. You might also want to include some deadlines for submitting chapter drafts to your supervisor, particularly if your supervisor has other commitments during the year (e.g. overseas conference, travel with sporting team).

6. **Resources Required** (Including Dollar Estimates of Costs)

Include both resources that are available in the School and those which need to be purchased or where payments need to be made (e.g. participant reimbursement). Include a table providing budgetary details. Note, where the budget exceeds \$500, students need to make a special request to the Honours Coordinator.

7. **Significance of Research**

As you are probably going to be inconveniencing participants and also introducing risks into their lives that they otherwise would not experience, you need to justify why the research should be undertaken. Provide a statement of the significance of the research to the scientific community and, where relevant, to specific population groups.

8. **References**

Include all (and only) references cited in the proposal.

9. **Endorsement by Student and Supervisor** (Names and Signatures Required)