This section applies to proposals for mini-dissertations, dissertations and thesis. It does not apply to Honours projects.

Although the candidate is the primary researcher, a research proposal must be compiled together with the supervisor(s). However, ultimately the candidate is responsible for the development of a research proposal, and any failure to develop and have a proposal approved within the prescribed time frames will normally rest with the candidate (except in particular detailed and recognized and documented circumstances).

The quality of the proposal usually indicates:

• The level of a candidate’s academic maturity and the candidate’s ability to conduct the proposed research

• The supervisor’s level of professionalism in providing guidance as to what is required

• The quality of the supervision services that the supervisor is likely to provide the candidate during the course of the research

• The standard of work that one can expect from the candidate when the thesis or dissertation is ultimately presented for examination

Technically, a proposal must be of the same standard as is expected of a thesis or dissertation. Structure, content and referencing must be coherent and consistent; and the language must be understandable and grammatically correct. The document must be suitably spell-checked, text-matched and language-edited, either by the candidate or by another person. All pages must be numbered.

There is no prescribed length for a research proposal (but try and be concise) and the University also does not stipulate the font or font size of a proposal, nor the line spacing. At all times be brief and concentrate on writing clearly and in understandable language. The format of the research proposal will depend to a great extent on the discipline in which the study is being undertaken and the research approach that will be employed. Candidates are free to design their proposals to suit their proposed research, and to select appropriate headings, and to place them in the appropriate order. In some instances the headings may be combined. Research Proposal January 2013 for 2016 Page 4 of 29 Irrespective of one’s preferred approach, all research proposals should contain the following:

**Cover page (compulsory)**

**UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND**



**RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

For the degree of

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the field of

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

FACULTY OF ARTS

With the provisional title:

Candidate:

Student number:

Supervisor:

Co-Supervisor:

TABLE OF CONTENT

[1. INTRODUCTION 1](#_Toc14090540)

[2. PROBLEM STATEMENT 3](#_Toc14090541)

[3. GUIDING RESEARCH OBJECTIVES: 4](#_Toc14090542)

[4. GUIDING RESEARCH QUESTIONS: 4](#_Toc14090543)

[5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY 4](#_Toc14090544)

[6. PRELIMINARY LITERATURE REVIEW 5](#_Toc14090545)

[**6.1 Conceptual Clarification** 5](#_Toc14090546)

[**6.2 A Review of Literature** 6](#_Toc14090547)

[**6.2.1 The History of the 1955 Freedom Charter** 6](#_Toc14090548)

[**6.2.2 Diverging interpretations of the land clause of the Freedom Charter** 9](#_Toc14090549)

[**6.2.3 Socialism and the Freedom Charter** 11](#_Toc14090550)

[**6.2.4 Progress towards the clauses of the Freedom Charter** 13](#_Toc14090551)

[**6.2.5 Land distribution outlook pre and post-Democracy** 16](#_Toc14090552)

[**6.2.6 Land Policies pre and post-Democracy** 17](#_Toc14090553)

[7. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK 21](#_Toc14090554)

[**7.1 The Concept of Social change** 21](#_Toc14090555)

[8. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY 23](#_Toc14090556)

[**8.2 Questionnaire Design** 25](#_Toc14090557)

[**8.3 Data Analysis** 25](#_Toc14090558)

[9. FUNDING 26](#_Toc14090559)

[10. FEASIBILITY 26](#_Toc14090560)

[11. INTENDED CONTRIBUTION TO THE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE 26](#_Toc14090561)

[12. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS 26](#_Toc14090562)

[13. RESOURCES 28](#_Toc14090563)

[14. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND INNOVATION 28](#_Toc14090564)

[15. HARVESTING THE RESEARCH 28](#_Toc14090565)

[16. DECLARATION BY CANDIDATE 28](#_Toc14090566)

[**17.** **DECLARATION BY SUPERVISOR(S)** 29](#_Toc14090567)

[18. Preliminary Chapter Division 29](#_Toc14090568)

[**19.** **CHAPTERS** 31](#_Toc14090569)

[20. REFERENCES 32](#_Toc14090570)

# INTRODUCTION

A brief outline of the proposed study, or the main theme of the research.

# LITERATURE REVIEW

A review of literature and/or other resources that constitute the knowledge-base in the specific area of study. A literature review should cover the main areas of the existing literature that are relevant to the subject. However, guard against giving an undesirable “summary” of existing literature. For a research proposal one needs to present only a general indication of what elements of the literature one will use and it is sufficient to indicate only the main relevant works that have been consulted. A more in-depth review and analysis will be undertaken in the dissertation/thesis.

# PROBLEM STATEMENT, DELIMITATION OF FIELD AND SUBSTANTIATION METHOD

A statement of the research problem. Indicate the specific problem or gap in the current knowledge that requires new thinking and support the statement by referring to relevant and especially recent research in the area. State clearly why there is a need to solve the particular problem or address the area of concern or to contribute to new developments in the chosen field. It is very important that the problem (actual research question) is clearly formulated. The possible application or value of your research and expected results can be highlighted here. If your research is part of a larger, multidisciplinary project, you should indicate what part your own research will play in the larger project.

# 3. RESEARCH AIMS, OBJECTIVES and/or PURPOSE OF THE STUDY:

A statement of the aims of the study, which may contain references to general or specific objectives. Indicate the reason(s) for selecting the research topic and what the research is intended to achieve. In the case of doctoral studies, the intended contribution to expanding the body of knowledge must be clearly stated. With empirical investigations (based on observation or experiment) the general aims usually refer to the direction the research is likely to go in addressing he research question. This direction should be mapped out, based upon one’s initial understanding of the challenges set by the research question and the preliminary literature review, as well as the preliminary ideas on the route that is likely to be followed. Specific aims are formulated especially to Guide the actual investigations that will be conducted.

# 4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

Where appropriate, reference may be made to a research hypothesis, or expectation of the central theoretical statement or guiding argument. This will depend on the nature of the research problem and on disciplinary approaches. In the sciences, for example, it is customary to state a hypothesis, while in humanities and social sciences, it is more likely that a research problem would be specified. A hypothesis is a provisional or interim answer to the research problem/question. In formulating a hypothesis one is speculating upon or predicting a possible answer to the research question that might be reached at the end of the study. Of course one cannot be sure at the beginning exactly how the question will be answered at the end, so in reality a hypothesis is no more than a target one sets to aim at; or a preliminary view that one intends to test. As one investigates the intricacies of the Research Proposal January 2013 for 2016 Page 6 of 29 problem/question one will be able to test whether or not the preliminary answer was satisfactory. Another way of explaining a hypothesis, is to call it a theory. Having determined the problem/question, one now states one’s theory (interim idea) as to how the problem can be solved or the question can be answered. One then sets out to prove whether the theory (or preliminary answer) is correct, partially correct, or incorrect. In most research hypotheses or theories are found to be only partially correct, so the investigation will usually entail finding an ever more satisfactory answer to the stated problem/question.

# 5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY/PROCESSES

A description of the research methodology, the procedures that will be used to conduct the research. In this section of the proposal one indicates how one intends going about achieving the identified objectives, with specific reference to, and a breakdown of: • the design (in narrower sense, for example an inside-group design or twogroup design with pre- and post-measurements, or double-blind, placebocontrolled cross-study design); • the proposed methodology (methodology refers to the method you will apply in analysing your material, and the method of argument and reasoning you will adopt); • if there are co-workers what aspect they will be addressing, and how the research project is multidisciplinary; • test persons/research group/participants (characteristics, method, selection, size); • measuring instruments and/or software; • pilot studies, validity procedures and quality control; • proposed method of statistical data processing (e.g., using SPSS), if applicable; Where the candidate intends to conduct the research in the form of a series of interrelated articles the outline should provide an indication of the aspects that the candidate intends to address in each article

# 6. ETHICAL AND SAFETY ISSUES

Ethical, health, safety and environmental and other legal considerations and requirements. What is included in this section will depend upon the nature of the research and research methodology. The candidate must indicate the extent to which he or she is familiar with the relevant policies. The candidate should then Research Proposal January 2013 for 2016 Page 7 of 29 stipulate what ethical and safety issues could arise from conducting the proposed research and what he or she will do to manage the risks involved.

# 7. FEASIBILITY (Compulsory)

A statement concerning the feasibility of the research in terms of infrastructural and financial resources, time constraints and the accessibility of information.

**BUDGET (Compulsory)**

# 8. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (Compulsory)

A statement indicating what intellectual property rights could arise from the research and what would be done to ensure that rights are adequately protected. Possible commercialisation opportunities should also be mentioned.

# 9. KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION (Compulsory)

A statement indicating how and where the candidate intends publishing the material generated by the research in addition to producing the thesis/dissertation, including provisional titles of articles, books, etc, as well as possible journals to be used.

# 10. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Where when and how will the research report back to the community where study took place, etc.

# 11. DECLARATION BY CANDIDATE (Compulsory)

I acknowledge that I have read and understood the University's policies and rules applicable to postgraduate research, and I certify that I have, to the best of my knowledge and belief, complied with their requirements.

I declare that this proposal, save for the supervisory guidance received, is the product of my own work and effort. I have, to the best of my knowledge and belief, acknowledged all sources of information in line with normal academic conventions.

I further certify that the proposed research will be original, and that the material to be submitted for examination has not been submitted, either in whole or in part, for a degree at this or any other university.

I have subjected this document to the University‘s text-matching and/or similarity-checking procedures and I consider it to be free of any form of plagiarism.

Signature: ………………………….

Date: ..............................................

**DECLARATION BY SUPERVISOR(S) (Compulsory)**

I am satisfied that I have given the candidate the necessary supervision in respect of this proposal and that it meets the University‘s requirements in respect of postgraduate research proposals.

I have read and approved the final version of this proposal and it is submitted with my consent.

**Signature: …………………………..**

**Print Name:**

**Date:** .

# PRELIMINARY CHAPTER DIVISION (Compulsory)

A preliminary table of contents and work schedules should be attached as annexures. While the structure and content of such annexures are likely to change as the research progresses, the preliminary drafts indicate the extent of planning that the candidate and the supervisor have undertaken, the candidate’s understanding of what is expected, and the candidate’s level of preparedness to undertake the research. Naturally, the research topic and methodology will determine the chapter divisions and sub-divisions, and many options arise. It is also useful to allocate the expected number of pages to a chapter or sub-section, thus helping to conceptualise the shape and size of the project. However, sometimes faculties and/or disciplinary conventions prescribe particular formats.

**Work Schedule:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Description | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Chapter One - Introduction**: T

**Chapter Two – Literature Review**:

**Chapter Three – Theoretical Framework**

**Chapter Four –– Methodology**:

**Chapter 5 – Results**

**Chapter 6 – Discussion**

**Chapter 7 – Conclusion**

# REFERENCES

**ANNEXURES**