

## A Guide to Writing your Research Proposal Outline (required for Master of Visual Arts)

### Purpose of the Research Proposal Outline:

The purpose of the Research Proposal Outline (RPO) is to support you (the applicant/student) to assist us (the postgraduate selection panel) in understanding the scope, direction, and focus of your proposed research project. It should situate your topic in a clearly defined territory of inquiry. For example, the area you are interested in may be discipline-specific (drawing, printmaking, painting, sculpture, installation, photography, performance, film and video, mixed media, sound, interactive, participation, social practice, etc.), or focused on an interdisciplinary approach.

*The Research Proposal Outline is an important factor in a successful application to our programmes.*

You can find the MVA Research Proposal Outline template below. Please read this guide before submitting your proposal with your application.

### THE PROPOSAL OUTLINE INCLUDES THESE SECTIONS:

<b>Research Project Title:</b> (10 words maximum)
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This is a working title, so it is likely to change several times throughout your research journey. We have provided some examples of *completed* master's degree thesis titles below.

*The title should say in as few words as possible what your research project is. This can be a statement of purpose, metaphorical/poetic in its description, or a combination of both – because it is the first thing anyone sees, it needs to focus their attention.*

Past MVA thesis examples include:

[\*Modes of Adaptation: Identifying Matriarchal Influences in Art Making and Translating Knowledge Through Spatial Apparatuses\*](#), by Sosefina Andy

[\*Meanwhile Rehearsals\*](#), by Samantha Cheng

[\*Introspective Fieldworks; the Everyday in Flux\*](#), by brunelle dias

[\*Flexible spaces for happy people \(almost, almost\)\*](#), by Charlotte Drayton

[\*Live the problem: art and other things\*](#), by Sarah Gruiters

[\*Gesturing the Grid\*](#), by Caitlyn Manning

[\*No Longer/Not Yet: lacuna and dissemination in practice\*](#), by Lucy Meyle

[\*Family Memories: Capturing Stories From Different Time-lines Within the Tongan Traditional Crafts of Naatu \(Decorated Barkcloth\) Making and Kupesi \(Embroidered Stencil\) Design\*](#), by 'Uhila Nai

[Unofficial systems to keep the world running](#), by Antonia Nisbet

[Theatre of Painting; a structural exploration of the forming of an image through paint](#), by Linda Roche

[Dynamic inventions](#), by Alexander Schipper

[Minimum viable product \(inside game\)](#), by Mark Schroder

[Ko te matou kaiqa tenei](#), by Kelsi Tulafono

[Playground of Failure, Bad Jokes and Other Forms of Resistance](#), by Sophie Sutherland

[On Returning to the Sea: Towards Belonging Through Land, Language, & Tactile Storytelling](#), by Arielle Walker

[Reimagining Maori Identity in Art](#), by Cora-Allan Wickliffe

### Research Topic Overview: (150 words maximum)

What are you going to research through your practice?

*Here you discuss your art practice in relation to your topic/conceptual terrain. Are you a painter, sculptor, installation artist, photographer, performance artist, film and video maker, mixed-media, sound or interactive artist, social art practitioner, etc.? Or do you have an interdisciplinary practice you can demonstrate/discuss through your portfolio and Research Proposal Outline? If so, how will you put your skills to work on a research project? What is it you imagine you will make at the end of your studies?*

### Thesis Statement: (350 words maximum)

How do you propose to develop your art practice in relation to your chosen topic?

*Discuss,  
The methods (approaches, techniques, processes, etc.) you regularly use to make work.  
Briefly describe your practical and where appropriate, theoretical working methods (approaches).*

What ideas are you considering in your proposed research (your practice)?

*Discuss,  
Why you are curious about this topic/concepts/mode of practising?  
What do you hope to discover by undertaking this visual arts research project?  
What do you consider might be revealed through your research project?*

Where do you locate this research?

*Discuss,  
How is your research positioned within its territory of inquiry or paradigm?  
What direction do you think your research might lead you in?*

*In relation to relevant practitioners, artists, writers, theorists and other influences, where is your practice and project situated?*

*If you have any theoretical investigations that inform your work you can also state them in this section.*

How is this research meaningful?

*Consider,*

*How might this research produce new ways of looking at and being in the world?*

*Reflect upon the meaning/significance of your proposal in the context of the above discussion.*

**Bibliography:** (Example below)

### **Bibliography**

Akerman, Chantal. "Chantal Akerman: In Her Own Time an Interview with Miriam Rosen." In *The Cinematic*, edited by David Company. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 2004.

Allen, Richard and Malcolm Turvey, eds. *Camera Obscura, Camera Lucida: Essays in Honor of Annette Michelson*, Film Culture in Transition. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2003.

Antonioni, Michelangelo. "Deserto Rosso/the Red Desert." Video recording. Collingwood, Vic.: Madman Entertainment: AV distributor, 2006.

Aufderheide, Patricia. *Documentary Film: A Very Short Introduction*. Very Short Introductions. Oxford University Press, 2007.

Bresson, Robert. "A Man Escaped." DVD. London: Artificial Eye, 2008.

Brinkman, Dirk. "Editorial." *Silviculture Magazine* Spring (2012).

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**Research Proposal Outline Template (500 words total)**

<b>Student name</b>		<b>Student ID number (if known)</b>	
<b>Programme</b>	Master of Visual Arts		

**Research Project Title:** (10 words maximum)

**Research Topic Overview:** (150 words maximum)

**Thesis Statement:** (350 words maximum)

**Bibliography related to this Research Proposal Outline:** (At least 10 entries)