

## 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 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 the guide before submitting your proposal with your application.

### THE PROPOSAL OUTLINE INCLUDES THESE SECTIONS:

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

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

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

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

[\*Beyond the World of Sense Perception: Manifesting the Life Force of Materials Through Principles That Guide Actions\*](#), by Michelle Mayn

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

[\*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

[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 take 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 (practices, 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)