

Research Proposal (formally PGR2) Guidelines for Applicants for the PhD programme in the Faculty of Culture & Society

*Please write a short, **1000-2000 word max**, provisional research proposal using the following headings as a guide. Your proposal should be in 12-point font, single spaced and written in lay English for a general audience under the headings as indicated.*

1. Background and significance of the research

Introduce the topic of the research and why the research is important.

2. Brief literature review and theoretical base for the research

Provide an overview of the key literature and theories that are most important to the topic, demonstrating your understanding of the research issues, and highlighting key gap(s) in the literature that your research addresses.

3. Research question

Clearly define the question(s) the research intends to address.

4. Research design – brief outline of the potential methodology and methods to be employed in the study

Provide a description of which research methodology will likely be employed to answer the research question(s). Depending on your research question(s), this may involve identifying the likely sources of data, and methods used for collecting and analysing data. If appropriate, provide a preliminary indication of likely sample size(s).

5. Positionality Statement

If appropriate, please include a positionality statement in your research proposal, reflecting on how your background, lived experiences, and perspectives may shape your approach to the research.

You should complete the front page of the Admission to a Doctoral Programme (formally PGR2) form and copy and paste your research proposal into the section titled 'Doctoral Applicants Research Proposal'. Please also complete the Entry Criteria Statement and sign the 'Declaration by Student' and pass the form onto your supervisors for them to complete their part of the form. Once your supervisors have completed their section of the form, they will pass your Admission form on to the Faculty Postgraduate Office to complete the final section, obtain the signature of the Associate Dean Postgraduate and to seek the approval of the appropriate Boards for your admission.