

MA Programme in English Language and Literature

Research Proposal Guidelines

Introduction & Background of the Study

Give a brief introduction about the topic of your study and explain the background. Give your rationale (reason) for conducting this study. If you select to analyse a particular work by a particular author, give brief background information about these and summarise them here.

Aim of the Study

Clearly state what your research focus is. Indicate the 'gap' in the knowledge of your discipline. Link this with your introduction and the background of the study.

Main Arguments and the Significance of the Study

Clearly state your thesis statement and list your main arguments. Explain the significance of the themes you have chosen to argue. Talk about why your study is important and how it will contribute to the field of language and literary studies.

Literature Review

Provide information about the previous studies in this field. Include as many studies as you can and explain their relevance to your topic/aim. This section will give an overview of what has already been said or done in your specific area of study; what the prevailing theories, opinions and hypotheses are; and what methods or research sources may be appropriate. In general, you are showing how your work fits into the broader area of language and literary studies. The Literature Review is also a critical review of other works. It is important to note that in your Literature Review you must only include information which is relevant to your arguments/research questions.

Definition of Key Terms

Define the terms that your study focuses on. Use both dictionary and operational definitions.

Methodology

Provide a detailed justification of your chosen theoretical/analytical frameworks and how they relate to your arguments. It is important that your methodology shows an appreciation of the **historical and cultural contexts** of the theoretical frameworks you use, especially where there's fundamental disagreement between theorists. Your literature review and methodology will develop in tandem with each other. Explain clearly the methodology you are going to use to carry out the analysis you intend to do. This will depend on the chosen theoretical framework as well as your thesis statement and main arguments. Provide information about how you will select extracts/work/parts of the work (whichever one is applicable) for analysis and/or how the theory will be used for analysis of the chosen parts/characters/plot and so on.

Limitations and Delimitations

Talk about the possible limitations related to the study. Think about the way in which critical terms are defined, or the scope of the problem explored. Add delimitations, i.e. things that the researcher is able to control but will not include/will have restrictions on depending on the aims or practical issues related to the study.

Timeline

Provide a timeline for the whole course of the study. Give clear dates for when each procedure is expected to be completed.

References

List all the sources you have used in the text according to APA 6th edition.