

Writing a proposal for the PhD/ DBA application

With the application for the PhD/ DBA the student has to submit a brief, provisional research proposal in which the planned thesis is outlined. The proposal serves both as verification of the suitability of the topic for a doctoral degree and as evidence that some preliminary research and reading has been undertaken. Furthermore it is a demonstration of the candidate's understanding of the area and aptitude for a doctoral degree. However, the proposal is preliminary only and the topic and approach is likely to evolve and undergo changes when further research is conducted.

The proposal should be a continuous text, include the following points and should be limited to a maximum of 500 - 1000 words.

- Indicative title/Working title
- Area of study, introduction to the topic and research aim
- Research questions
- Research objectives, how are you going to approach the topic?
- Contextualization of the topic, comments on how the research might contribute to further understanding and what potential impact might be expected in the area of research, e.g. in

Further Links: organizational development, work practice, knowledge and discernment in theory/practice, ...

- Methodology and Methods and: Indicate how the research might be conducted, which methods of research and data collection will be applied, e.g. qualitative/quantitative surveys, observation, interviews, where the research will take place, on what it will focus on.
- References: Short list of references and literature on which the preliminary proposal is based and/or which might influence your research