



# MA1 THESIS & RESEARCH ESSAY PROPOSAL FORM

This form must be completed before writing a thesis or research essay. A student cannot begin work formally on a thesis or research essay until the following conditions have been met:

1. The Academic Registrar has indicated that the student **has been successful** in her or his course work.
2. The title has been approved by the Academic Committee.
3. A supervisor has been appointed.

Please submit two copies of this form with the research proposal attached (with your name and date included). One copy will be signed and returned to you once the title has been approved and a supervisor appointed.

## SECTION A: To be completed by the Student

### STUDENT DETAILS

Student Name

Student ID Number

Course number (indicate)

Enrolment status (indicate)

MB792/MM790 Research Essay

MA821 Research Essay

Full-time

Thesis (90 credit, 30,000 words)

Thesis (120 credit, 40,000 words)

Part-time

Ethics approval required

Yes (Completed MA3 form required)

No

Student

signature

day month year

## SECTION B: For Office Use Only

### RESEARCH PROPOSAL APPROVALS

Title Approved

Supervisor/s Appointed

Ethics approval required

Yes N/A

Supervisor

signature

day month year

Academic Director

signature

day month year

## SECTION C: To be attached to this Proposal Form

A research proposal should contain the following parts and be about 1500 words in length.

**1. Working Title**

The title should reflect the nature and scope of the proposed research.

**2. Research Question**

State the research question clearly and briefly. The idea is to state the area of research rather than what will be argued. A proposal that sounds too little like a proposal for research and too much like a study intended to prove what one already believes will not be accepted.

**3. Motivation for This Research**

Why do you want to do this research? You may also need to deal with questions of your objectivity or subjectivity.

**4. Location of and Need for the Research in Current Scholarship**

Here you should show how your proposal fits within the contemporary debate on your topic. This may include a brief listing of the most important literature you will refer to, primary material you will need to access, and, in any case, what your research will contribute.

**5. Scope and Limitations of the Research**

The scope may be defined by persons, groups, geography, chronology, purpose or methods. It specifies the particular area of the topic you will deal with. The limitations address potential weaknesses (access to necessary materials, linguistic, the inability to cover all the aspects of a given question). You can either turn this to your advantage by appealing to what this allows you to do or seek to limit the disadvantages by justifying the work despite these limitations.

**6. Methodology**

What method(s) and methodology do you plan to use for your study?  
Where appropriate please ensure Ethics approval has been obtained.

**7. Working Outline**

You may write this either in the form of a detailed draft Table of Contents, including not only chapter headings but also sub-headings, or giving chapter titles and a paragraph on what you plan to do in that chapter. Of course this outline may well change.

**8. Indicative Bibliography**

Significant works should appear here. Try to ensure that they demonstrate a broad coverage of the topic, including using works in other languages where possible and relevant. Please limit the number of entries to a list of sources long enough and broad enough to establish that the thesis genuinely will be part of a scholarly conversation, rather than an exhaustive list of scholarship in the field.) It is anticipated that this bibliography will be no longer than 25 key works which provide the foundation for the study.

**9. Proposed Supervisor**

**10. Proposed Supervisors Comment**

A comment by the proposed supervisor on their suitability for the role and any need for other supervisory input.