

Thesis Proposal

The Thesis forms the core of the student's research and study in this programme. It is important, therefore, that a succinct research proposal be prepared at an early stage in the student's progress. Within the first year of registration the student must submit a proposal for approval, first to the Supervisory Committee, then to the programme, and then to the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Although a draft of the thesis proposal should be submitted to the supervisory committee by January 30, the deadline for submitting the final proposal to the programme for approval is April 15 of the first year for full-time students and of the second year for part-time students. The student is notified in writing if there are changes required, or if there are questions that need to be answered. If approval is granted, the student may proceed with the writing of the Thesis.

Students are advised to begin discussions with their supervisors regarding the writing of the Thesis as soon as possible. In most cases, the proposal represents an expansion or refinement of the initial proposal along with whatever modifications are necessary for developing or focusing the topic. Since research projects often err on the side of breadth and expansiveness, supervisors and students are encouraged to focus on a well-defined topic and to be realistic about the goals of a Master's Thesis. In any event, the proposal should be a clear, discursive statement which describes the research topic and outlines the work involved.

The student may find it useful to examine other theses and proposals in the programme office. The proposal may not exceed 2500 words.

The following should be included in the proposal:

1. The working title of the Thesis
2. The proposed research and its interdisciplinary nature. This should include an account of the existing state of scholarship in the fields of study and the relationship of the proposed study to this scholarship; the theoretical and conceptual framework; and the methodology. It is understood that refinements and revision may occur as the work progresses!
3. A tentative list of chapters or sections
4. Languages other than English, if any, which are needed to complete the project and the Candidate's proficiency
5. Travel, if any, needed to pursue the research
6. The timeline for completion of the thesis
7. A select bibliography
8. When applicable, a signed Faculty of Graduate Studies Human Participants Research Protocol Form, a Human Participants Review Sub-Committee (HPRC) Protocol Form and related documentation (Informed Consent forms, sample questionnaires etc.). All students must be familiar with the HPRC guidelines governing ethical conduct of research (<http://www.yorku.ca/grads/policies/index.htm>)
9. A signed Faculty of Graduates Studies Thesis Proposal Submission Form.