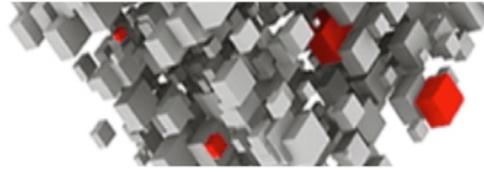


GRADUATE PROGRAM IN

Interdisciplinary Studies



The Interdisciplinary Studies THESIS PROPOSAL

Every IS student prepares an MA Thesis Proposal in consultation with their Supervisory Committees, singly and as a whole. Drawing upon coursework, the proposal elaborates and refines the research project first outlined and documented in the Statement of Interest and accompanying Bibliography included in every IS student's application to the program. Full-time students prepare the Thesis Proposal during their first year in the program, part-time students in their second year.

Students are advised to begin discussions with their supervisors regarding the drafting of a Thesis Proposal as soon as possible. MA research projects easily become unwieldy and over-reaching. IS encourages every student to heed carefully any advice the Supervisory Committees gives on ways to focus their topic and on the need to be realistic about the goals of an MA thesis.

An IS Thesis Proposal normally takes the form of an essay. A covering page should include the title of the project, the names of all three members of Supervisory Committee, identifying the current Coordinating Chair, and the date of submission. The title should specify as clearly as possible the area of proposed research, though IS understands that this title may change to reflect more accurately shifts in focus occasioned by the research process itself.

In no more than 2500 words the body of the Thesis Proposal should discuss:

- ~ the topic or problem under investigation in non-technical language
- ~ the purpose of the proposed research in non-technical language
- ~ the relation of the proposed research to the scholarly and/or creative traditions of scholarship out of which it arises and to which it contributes
- ~ the theoretical framework, methodological approach, and interdisciplinary nature of the proposed research, including fieldwork and/or creative aspects
- ~ where appropriate, any work involving human participants and the research ethics that apply to it, including a statement that the student has completed the online Tri-Council Agencies Tutorial. Please see:

<http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/education/tutorial-didacticiel/>

- ~ where appropriate, any work involving the delivery of research in electronic, digital or multi-media formats
- ~ where appropriate, the student's proficiency in any languages other than English required to satisfactorily complete the proposed research
- ~ where appropriate, any travel required to pursue the proposed research and evidence of the student's ability to fund it
- ~ the original contribution to knowledge that the proposed research makes
- ~ a **chapter-BY-chapter** outline of the thesis
- ~ a step-by-step **time-frame** for completing the thesis

A formal bibliography should accompany the Thesis Proposal. This bibliography is not part of the 2500 word-count.

TIMELINES

Every IS student should have a first draft of the Thesis Proposal ready for submission to their **Supervisory Committee by January 30**. All three members of the Supervisory Committee must approve the proposal. Once these approvals have been secured, IS students must hand in the Thesis Proposal to the GPA, together with the Thesis and Dissertation Proposal Submission Form (TD1) and, where necessary, the Human Participant Review Forms (TD2, TD3, Informed Consent and Sample Questionnaire). All three members of the student's Supervisory Committee must sign the TD1; the current Coordinating Chair of the Supervisory Committee must sign the TD2, TD3, Informed Consent and Sample Questionnaire.

The deadline for submitting the **Thesis Proposal to the Program Office is April 15**. The GPA presents the proposal to the GPD and FGS for approval. The GPA will not forward a proposal to the GPD or to FGS until and unless all required documentation has been provided in appropriate format with all required signatures. FGS requires that a Thesis Proposal be forwarded for approval no later than 3 months prior to the date of the Oral Examination on an MA thesis. FGS then submits the package to the Research Ethics if human participants are involved.

Research Ethics notifies every student in writing either that a Thesis Proposal has been approved or that changes or clarifications are needed to secure approval. Under no circumstances should a student begin research involving human participants before they have received Ethics approval for their proposal. Students will not be allowed to use any and all research involving human participants undertaken before Ethics approval has been granted. Once a student has received Ethics approval for the Thesis Proposal in writing, they may proceed with the research and writing/creating of the MA Thesis.

The Thesis and Dissertation Proposal Submission Form (TD1) and Human Participant Review Forms (TD2, TD3, Informed Consent and Sample Questionnaire) are available