

GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PROPOSAL FORMAT

The complete format for research proposal will consist of the following contents/sections in about 4,000 words:

- i. **Title of the Research Proposal:** The research proposal should have a clear, meaningful and confirmed topic reflecting the scope of the study.
- ii. **Abstract** of the proposed research proposal should be given (*in about 200 words*).
- iii. **Conceptual Framework:** The conceptual framework should clearly state the research problem to be investigated in the light of its theoretical and/or empirical context in the relevant area. It should attempt to connect to all aspects of inquiry. (*in about 400 words*).
- iv. **Major Research Works Reviewed:** (National and International): Reviews of at least 15 to 20 significant national and international research works related to the proposed theme of research is to be given in this column (*in about 400 words*).
- v. **Identification of Research Gaps:** The scholar should summarize the current status of research in the area and major findings, including the researcher's own work in the area. Existing empirical findings may also be discussed. The overview should clearly demonstrate the inadequacies/ gaps in the existing findings or approaches and its relevance (*in about 300 words*).
- vi. **Objectives of the proposed study:** The general aim of the study along with the specific objectives to be accomplished, should be clearly stated (*in about 500 words*).
- vii. **Major Research Questions/Hypotheses:** Given the conceptual framework and the specification of dimension, the specific questions to be answered through the proposed research should be sharply formulated. In case of an explanatory research design, specification of variables and positing of relationship among them through specific hypotheses must be given (*in about 600 words*).
- viii. **Framework and methods proposed for research:** The researcher must describe in detail (a) the scope and coverage of his/her study; and (b) approach and methodology with adequate justification to conduct the research. The details of the methodology may include research design, data to be collected and empirical and analytical methods to be used. The description of the methodology must be clearly linked to the aims of the research and the research questions/hypotheses of the study (*in about 500 words*).
- ix. **Innovation/path breaking aspect of the proposed research:** Here, the emphasis should be laid to spell out the innovativeness in approach and novel concepts that have been envisaged in the study (*in about 150-200 words*).
- x. **Proposed outcomes such as papers in journals, edited book(s), book, policy papers, document, dataset etc. with proposed timeline and place of publication:** A brief note on the proposed plan of publications, during the course of research and after its completion, must be provided. The section should enlist the proposed outputs from the study in terms of publications in the form of research papers / articles in journals, particularly Scopus/ UGC's Care-listed journals, books, monographs, etc.) (*in about 300 words*).
- xi. **Any new data to be generated where data deficiency is felt:** A note on deficiencies/inadequacies found in the existing data and description of the new data to be generated for the proposed research (*in about 100-150 words*).
- xii. **Relevance of the proposed study for policy making:** A concise brief needs to be given on the significant contributions the research work expected to make to the theory and methodology on the subject as well as on policy making (*in about 150 words*).
- xiii. **Relevance of the proposed study for society:** A concise brief needs to be given on the significant contributions the research work expected to make to the society (*in about 200 words*).
- xiv. **Milestone set for the study for each successive quarter:** A quarterly timeline during the fellowship is to be given for timely completion of the fellowship research work. Timelines must be set for each successive quarter and its completion to be followed for timely submission of the final report (*in about 100 words*).