

EXCI-626 - Thesis proposal

General format of the thesis proposal

Below is a description of a proposed structure for the thesis proposal, with a range of length for each section to provide a guide to the emphasis.

1. Abstract (1 page max)
This short summary provides the essential aspects touched in the thesis proposal.
2. Theoretical Context (10-15 pages)
This section is a literature review that is targeted, aimed to be understood by the thesis supervision committee.
3. Rationale and Objectives (1-3 pages)
This section explains some remaining questions from the literature, and clearly poses a specific target knowledge to be acquired. Specific objectives should be formulated.
4. Hypothesis(es) (1 page)
This section portrays the potential answers to the question(s). Clearly, all of the objectives have to be addressed. The section describes the meaning of the main hypothesis or hypotheses, and evaluates the alternative outcomes.
5. Methods (3-10 pages)
This section provides a thorough expose of the methods. This section should fully detail all aspects of acquisition, analysis, and statistics.
6. Significance of Research Proposal (1 page)
Describe the addition to the body of knowledge that this work will bring.
7. References
Target: between 30 and 50 references, from research papers, scholarly books, and recent symposia. Website references are discouraged.

This general format can be adapted to the requirements of your thesis supervision committee.