

Research Proposal

Online course learning objectives

Gives an understanding of the elements and purpose of a research proposal, suggests strategies to avoid pitfalls when preparing your proposal and provides a step-by-step plan to craft a winning proposal, from early preparation to submission.

This course will help learners to:

- Understand the value of a research proposal and the contribution it makes to their project.
- Craft a research proposal to demonstrate and articulate the merits of the researcher, the research question, and their proposed methods.
- Use their proposal as a blueprint for action by developing it to clarify their thinking, embed their ideas, and articulate their thoughts clearly.
- Identify the key preparation steps of a research proposal.
- Use each step to effectively articulate their research question and general research plan.
- Learn how to assess and implement proposal guidelines.
- Follow the correct steps to clearly articulate what they know when writing a proposal.
- Understand what each section of the proposal requires.
- Formulate their own research proposal with the help of examples and guidelines.
- Anticipate potential obstacles in writing their proposal.
- Develop strategies to overcome or avoid them.

Language: English

Time to complete: 5 hours

Instructor: Zina O'Leary

Level: Intermediate

Online course full syllabus

MODULE ONE: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A RESEARCH PROPOSAL?

Learn how to use a proposal to 'sell' your project to those in power and how to cover the merits of the researcher, the research question, and proposed methods.

Topics:

1. Getting the green light
2. Demonstrating the merits of your research question
3. Demonstrating the merits of your proposed methods
4. Demonstrating the merits of the researcher

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MODULE TWO: BEFORE YOU START WRITING YOUR PROPOSAL

This module takes you through key preparation considerations and how to articulate each proposal element.

Topics:

1. It's all in the preparation
2. Nail your research question
3. Elements of a proposal

MODULE THREE: HOW CAN I WRITE A WINNING PROPOSAL?

Research proposals are often high stakes documents, so this course looks at how to be prepared, logical, and concise.

Topics:

1. Write like it counts
2. Articulate what you know
3. Use checklists
4. Follow guidelines

MODULE FOUR: WRITING EACH SECTION OF A PROPOSAL

This module covers the sections likely to be required in your proposal, what needs to be included in each, and how to write the different elements of a proposal.

Topics:

1. Title and abstract
2. Aims, hypothesis and question
3. Introduction and rationale
4. Literature review and theoretical perspectives
5. Methodology
6. Delimitation, limitations, and ethical considerations
7. Budget, funding, and references

MODULE FIVE: HOW DO I OVERCOME OBSTACLES?

Learn how to be knowledgeable, confident, and strategic in overcoming obstacles when writing your proposal.

Topics:

1. Obstacles as opportunities
2. When you realize your methodology isn't quite right
3. When your design does not fit proposal requirements