

Major Research Paper Proposal

Student: _____ Student #: _____

Supervisor: _____ Date: _____

1 Introduction

Outline the context (social, political, developmental) for your research question, and summarize the rest of the information presented below, briefly.

1.1 Research Question

Specify the research question to be addressed in the MRP.

1.2 Rationale

Explain the value of the proposed research. This section should establish the CONTEXT (why the research question is important). If the student proposes to work on a particular region or country, that choice should be justified.

1.3 Methods

Explain how you will find the evidence required to answer your research questions, and justify the choice. For example, do you intend to use primary sources (interviews), or secondary sources (academic and grey literature from international organizations)? Do you intend to use a recognized methodology for analysis (like discourse analysis, political event analysis, historical sociology, participatory rural appraisal, etc.), what are the advantages or disadvantages of this choice?

2 Literature Review

Identify the coherent bodies of literature in which your research project is located, and explain how you intend to contribute to these literatures with your analysis (a research project should involve embedding the research question within one or more existing literatures). This will require you to read broadly in the literature and begin to identify gaps, or underdeveloped areas, to which you can contribute. Consequently, this section should include your assessment of the important debates in the literature, and how your research question relates to those debates.

3 MRP Timeline

Stage of MRP	Year							
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.
Write MRP Proposal								
Proposal Revisions								
Proposal Approved								
Write MRP								
Writing stage 1 (specify)								
Writing stage 2 (specify)								
Writing stage 3 (specify)								
Submit MRP first draft								
MRP Revisions								
Submit Final MRP								
MRP Approved								

4 Table of Contents

5 References

Bibliography of sources used in the proposal, and sources that you expect to be relevant to the MRP.

Format and Evaluation of the MRP

The MRP is to be a minimum of 12,000 and maximum of 15,000 words in length, excluding bibliography and annexes. After submission, it is evaluated by the supervisor and a 2nd reader (blind to the student and to the supervisor), each of whom will attribute a mark to the student's work. The final mark, which appears on the student's transcript, is the average of the two marks.