Title of Research Proposal

Synopsis for

M.Phil./Ph.D.
in
STATISTICS

Submitted by

NAME
(Roll No.)
Session: ????

Under Supervision of

Supervisor's Name

Date of Submission:

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS
BAHAUDDIN ZAKARIYA UNIVERSITY
MULTAN

Abstract

An abstract of a research proposal summarizes, usually in one paragraph of 300-400 words, the major aspects of the entire proposal in a prescribed sequence that includes: 1) the overall purpose of the study and the research problem(s) you will be investigating; 2) the basic design of the study; and 3) major expected findings/results of the study.

Note: Abstract of a Thesis and Research article is different. Since in that case, all the work would have been done so the abstract would be modified accordingly. Moreover, a brief summary of the interpretations and conclusions will also be included.

1 Introduction

The introduction should include the following elements (with or without headings):

1.1 Background/Context
Lead the reader into the topic and scope of your research.

1.2 Problem Statement
Describe the theoretical or practical research problem that you want to address. What is already known about the problem? What is missing from current knowledge?

1.3 Research Questions/Hypotheses
State the specific question(s) that you aim to answer.

1.4 Objectives
State the specific objective(s) that you intend to address.
 (Note: It is also common to merge sub-sections 1.3 and 1.4)

1.5 Relevance and Importance of the Research/Scope
Make it clear what new insights you will contribute, who they are relevant to, and why the research is worth doing.

2 Literature Review

The literature review summarizes, compares and critiques the most relevant scholarly sources on the topic.

The "literature review" is a major part of a proposal. In order to demonstrate that your project makes a significant contribution to the field, you need to show that you are aware of the traditions and „state of the art" research in that field.

The term "literature review" should be understood in the broadest sense. You should cite examples of relevant practice if these are what establish the context of your own research (for example, if you are proposing work that constitutes a technical breakthrough in interactive Shopping, outline the achievements and limitations of precursors).

The literature review should not be approached like an undergraduate essay, surveying a broad field. Its purpose is to set-up your particular research project, and it should therefore be focused and evaluative, rather than general. Indicate where earlier work – both theoretical and practical - has taken us and what remains to be done.

Do not provide a reading list (though it may be useful to do this with your supervisor at some point). The proposal should demonstrate that you have a grasp of existing work – and that you know enough about the field to determine an area of inquiry or a starting point for research.

Often you will need to draw on literature from several fields in order to establish the niche in which your project sits.

Bear in mind that the purpose of a review of the field is to establish not just innovation but significance. M.Phil./PhD research can be radical, bold and unconventional but it must address a community of academics, professionals or scientists. There is no need to make your work conform to the models and expectations of areas outside your own. Use the literature review to define the parameters of your field.

Do not, however, willfully ignore work that relates to your own. You must know your own field. In the course of M.Phil./PhD study you will need to familiarize yourself with any [significant] work that intersects with your project.

There are many different ways to structure a literature review, but it should explore:

[Key Concepts, Theories and Studies]
Compare, contrast, and establish the theories and concepts that will be most important for your project.

[Key Debates and Controversies]
Identify points of conflict and situate your own position.

[Gaps in Existing Knowledge]
Show what is missing and how your project will fit in.

[Consolidation]
Consolidate all the review in few lines or paragraph(in case of full thesis).

3   Methodology/Research Design and Methods

Here you should explain your approach to the research and describe exactly what steps you will take to answer your questions.
(For a typical research proposal about Statistics, consider the following components)

[Theoretical Frame Work]
Shortly define the theoretical background and framework. It could include the main theoretical idea(s) and model(s).

[Model(s)]
The model(s) of interest is (are) given here with all relevant assumptions and limitations.

[Estimator(s)/Statistical Tools]
All the estimator(s) under considerations should be defined here. Explain all the statistical tools including data analysing techniques and software, in needed.

(For a general research proposal, consider the following components)

[Research design]
Explain how you will design the research. Qualitative or quantitative? Original data collection or primary/secondary sources? Descriptive, correlational or experimental?

[Methods/Models and Sources]
Describe the tools, procedures, participants and sources of the research. When, where and how will you collect, select and analyze data?

[Practical Considerations]
Address any potential obstacles, limitations and ethical or practical issues. How will you plan for and deal with problems?

Important points to understand for a general research proposal	
Research type	• Will you do qualitative or quantitative research? • Will you collect original/primary data or work with secondary sources? • Is your research design descriptive, correlational, or experimental?
Sources	• Exactly what or who will you study (e.g. high school students, patients, general public etc.) • How will you select subjects or sources (e.g. random sampling, case studies)? • When and where will you collect the data?
Methods	• What tools and procedures will you use (e.g. surveys, interviews, observations, experiments)? • Why are these the best methods to answer your research questions?
Practicalities	• How much time will you need to collect the data? • How will you gain access to participants or sources? • Do you foresee any potential obstacles, and how will you address them?

[4 Budget Allocation]

(Budget allocations is only for funded research proposals)

1. Check the rule and regulation of the Donor Agency and its budget limitations
2. List your activities. Make a list of everything that you **plan** to do in the project, and who is going to do it
3. Check the rules again. You've already read the funding rules, right?
4. Present the cost of each product/activity in a spread sheet and compute all the sub-totals and total.
5. Justify all the details of Item-4.

[5 Time Schedule]

(Many research proposals include time schedule. However, it is not in practice for the M.Phil./Ph.D. research proposals)

6 References

List all publications cited in your proposal according to some standard format (e.g., APA, Conover, Chicago etc.). Your research proposal must include proper citations for every source you have used, and full publication details should always be included in the reference list. (For more help, you may visit http://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/citations/citationwhich).

Confirm that every reference in the text is included in "References" and every reference in "References" is included in the text.
Do not cite from memory without referencing.