

Prospective RE&D PhD Proposal

As part of your application, you are required to prepare a PhD research proposal. The proposal can be used in part to:

- Assess the merits of your application (for general acceptance and scholarships where relevant),
- The fit of your research topic to the RE&D group, Crawford and the ANU.
- Guide you in your studies. Don't worry though your proposal is just a starting point, all students revise their proposal when they commence their studies.

In preparing your proposal to undertake your PhD please consider:

Title

- A precise and informative description of the project.

Introduction:

- Context to set the scene as to why the research matters.
- What is the main overarching question that you seek to address and why is this question important?
- What are the overall aims of your research?
- Try and develop a clearly focused statement of the overall purpose of the proposed research (ie, why is it important? What contribution will it make?)

Research questions &/or hypotheses

- A more detailed discussion of the questions that the proposed research will address.

Review of relevant literature

- A brief discussion of some of the broad literature that you seek to address. What gaps are in this literature that you can address in this PhD research?
- Define any key terms/concepts you are drawing on.
- In this section you need to demonstrate that you are aware of the wider literature published internationally on this and related topics and that your research can engage in relevant debates. Therefore, you need to provide a preliminary review of the key research that has already been carried out in the field and identification of the gaps in the literature that the proposed research aims to fill.

Proposed methods

- An explanation of what *type of data* will be required to answer the research questions, or test the hypotheses and how the data will be *collected and analysed*.
- Do include some comment on the feasibility of the project. Consider noting if you have any relevant skills or networks to help access the data needed. If not (and it is ok if not!), how will you acquire these skills and access (for example, through undertaking the compulsory methods coursework etc)?
- See also COVID clause below.

Contribution

- This is the 'so what' question? What is the contribution you are trying to make with your research? This may be a contribution to the literature, methods and/or policy.

Timetable

- An indication of how the research will be carried out over the duration of a full-time (3 years for PhD) or part-time (6 years for PhD) candidature.

Institutional fit

- A statement on why RE&D is suitable for your project and a potential supervisor (and back up supervisor) who have offered their support for your proposal.

Reference list

- Include here a bibliography of any literature you have cited in the proposal.

Viability During COVID-19

- All applicants should include a section in their application detailing the viability of their project in the context of COVID restrictions. This section should either
 - o (a) explain how the project is not dependent on travel and/or fieldwork and therefore feasible regardless of restrictions in these domains; or
 - o (b) provide a 12-month plan outlining how the project will proceed if the current restrictions on fieldwork and travel continue.
- Applicants should discuss the viability of their research project under COVID restrictions with their proposed supervisors prior to submitting the application.

Proposals at Crawford can be between 5-10 pages and usually at least 7-8 pages in length. Please take the above structure as a suggestion only. Different proposals will address the above factors to different degrees but all will have to address all of them to some degree.

We also understand that some projects may be best presented in a different structure.

Please note, we strongly encourage all applicants to develop their proposal in consultation with their prospective supervisors.