

Appendix 3B: MUST MSc, MPhil AND PhD RESEARCH PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

The Research Proposal is a complete description of the intended research, developed under the supervision of the assigned supervisor. This document is meant to assist you in setting out the proposal, in terms of text layout, section headings and sub-sections. The full research proposal must be between 5 and 10 pages and should present the following:

- **Title**
- **Introduction**
- **Problem Statement**
 - ✓ Overview (i.e. knowledge/information gaps identified in literature review that the proposed study intends to bridge)
 - ✓ Research question(s) or hypothesis, aim and objectives
- **Objectives and Aims**
 - ✓ Aim
 - ✓ Specific Objectives
- **Significance/Justification of the study** (i.e. benefits to various stakeholders)
 - ✓ Individual beneficiaries (e.g. farmers, patients)
 - ✓ Communities
 - ✓ County Government
 - ✓ Sectoral Ministry Headquarters
 - ✓ Research community
- **Literature review**
- **Conceptual framework**
 - ✓ Theory
 - ✓ Diagrammatic conceptual frame
 - ✓ List of independent (explanatory) and dependent variables; and expected independent variable regression coefficients (parameters). These can be obtained either from the theoretical postulates or published literature.
- **Methods**
 - ✓ Study design (type of study)
 - ✓ Population and study sample
 - ✓ Sample size and selection of sample
 - ✓ Sources of data
 - ✓ Data collection methods and instruments
 - ✓ Exposure assessment
 - ✓ Data management
 - ✓ Mechanisms to assure the quality of the study – e.g. control of bias, safe storage of data
 - ✓ Data analysis methods - if applicable statistical planning must be fully addressed, or the candidate should provide evidence that statistics are not required.
 - ✓ Ethics and research subject issues
 - ✓ Timeframe or study period – Listing activities and when each activity would be implemented – up to completion of the study.
- **Strengths and weaknesses of the study**
 - ✓ Strengths
 - ✓ Weaknesses
- **Budget**
 - ✓ Resources required for the study and the money value (cost)
- **References**
 - ✓ Using American Psychological Association (APA) Style. The APA manual is available on the internet at:
- **Appendices**

- ✓ Append the Informed Consent Form, questionnaire(s), and any other data collection instruments.