

Guidelines for graduate research proposals in S/C Anthropology (adopted December 2004)

Before beginning Masters or Doctoral fieldwork, students must submit and defend a formal proposal of their thesis research to Academic Staff Members (faculty). The written proposal should be made available to faculty two weeks before the defence.

The Written Proposal

Length:

MA proposal: 10-15 pages

PhD proposal: 15-20 pages

Both the MA & PhD proposals should be double-spaced, printed in Times New Roman 12 point font, with one inch margins. The lengths set out above are for the main body of the proposal and do not include notes, references or appended research instruments (interview schedules, etc).

Components of the proposal:

Use the following headings as guides for structuring your proposal:

- 1) Title of project
- 2) Scope & objectives
- 3) Social relevance or practical importance
- 4) Theoretical approach
- 5) Significance in relation to existing research and literature
- 6) Research plans and methods
- 7) Schedule of work (work completed, work in progress, work to be done)
- 8) References cited
- 9) Relevant research instruments

Proposal Defence

The proposal will be defended to Academic Staff Members in a closed meeting. Following a brief (approximately 10 minutes) introduction to their project, students will answer any questions faculty may ask them about their proposed research. After the defence, the student will leave the room while faculty discuss whether the proposal meets the relevant standard. Whether or not the proposal is passed, students may be instructed to amend aspects of their research plans. The purpose of this defence and discussion is to ensure students are sufficiently prepared to undertake fieldwork and to help them refine their methodology before beginning research.

Ethics Approval

After a successful proposal defence, students must submit a separate application to the ICEHR for ethical approval of their research.