

Research Proposal - Dissertation

CHECK-LIST

1. Formal Aspects

- Length:
 - Maximum of 5000 words (excluding Front cover, Index, and Bibliography).
 - The literature review should be between 2000 words (minimum) and 2500 words (maximum).
- Includes cover with identification of the author, title, name of the Course Unit and Word Limit;
- Includes Index (including Index of Figures or Index of Tables, if relevant);
- Pages are numbered;
- Table formatting (including caption) complies with formatting rules adopted by ISEG;
- Figure formatting (including caption) complies with formatting rules adopted at ISEG;
- ‘Bibliographic References’ section complies with Harvard Referencing system, adopted at ISEG;
- In-text Citations comply with Harvard Referencing system, adopted at ISEG;
- Avoid using indirect references (‘cit in’) in the text.

2. Outline

- **Introduction**
 - Provides a justification of the topic, supported by evidence in the literature.
 - Identifies (and defines, by reference to the literature) the key concepts in the topic;
 - Identifies the Research Question (and, if applicable) the Hypothesis;
 - Describes the structure of the Research Proposal.
- **Literature Review**
 - Per each key concept in your topic, there should be a section that:
 - Identifies and describes the different forms of conceptualising and measuring the concept in question;
 - When applicable, describes a given conceptualisation reflects an underlying theoretical standpoint;
 - In addition to this, there should be a section that explores the empirical evidence on your topic, namely:
 - Methodological approaches used to explain what impacts on the Dependent Variable;
 - Empirical evidence on the Dependent Variable in your topic;
 - Empirical evidence on how the Independent Variables in your topic impact on the Dependent variable;

- Empirical evidence on how other relevant variables (Control Variables) impact on the Dependent variable.

In doing this, explore how differences in measurement of concepts and methodologies impact on the empirical results.

- **Research Question & Hypotheses**

- Specifies the Research Question in a clear and understandable manner (i.e., it allows for the identification of all components of the PICO/PEO model);
- If applicable, it specifies the Hypotheses that will be subjected to empirical validation.

- **Methodology**

- Identifies the Methodological Approach (Quantitative/Mixed) used to respond to the Research Question;
- Identifies the data collection method that will be applied;
- If planning to implement a questionnaire, identifies (and justify) the sampling technique to be adopted, and the sample size;
- Identifies how the key concepts will be operationalized;
- Identifies the data analysis strategy.

- **Bibliography**

- At least 20 references (effectively used in the body of the text).