



THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Faculty of Arts

Research Higher Degrees – application requirements Research proposal and writing sample

1. Research proposal:

Along with your formal application for a place in the RHD program in your School, you are required to provide a preliminary research proposal of 2,500 words.

This should outline, along with a brief introduction and conclusion:

- the specific area of your intended research,
- a brief summary of the key literature in this field,
- a sketch of the key research questions you hope to answer, and
- a description of the methodology required to conduct this research.

A comprehensive literature review is not required, but a short bibliography of key relevant works should be included.

This information is required for two purposes:

- it will assist the School selection committee to make a qualitative assessment amongst the many applications received for available places, and
- it will enable the School selection committee to ensure that appropriate expert supervision, as well as the resources necessary to facilitate your proposed research, are available.

Note that, as it is common for research proposals to go through an iterative process of development, this proposal is considered indicative, rather than binding in all details.

2. Writing Sample

To further assist in the selection process, you are required to provide a sample of your recent work. This might be, for example, one or two chapters from an Honours thesis, or a recent essay or paper that you think demonstrates your research and writing abilities.

Usually, this writing sample would be approximately 5,000 words.

Please provide a very brief explanation of the context, ie whether this is a chapter from your thesis, or a 4th year essay, or a paper writing in a particular context.

Ensure both documents are labeled with your name, the School to which you are applying and date.

These two documents must be attached to your application form (available at <http://www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/research/application/apply.html>)

and submitted by the closing date to the Faculty of Arts (see <http://www.arts.unimelb.edu.au/futurestudents/research>)