

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE TRAINING ACADEMY

COMMITED TO EMPOWER YOUR SUCCESS

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Writing Skills

Day 1

Session 1: Characteristics and Structure of a Good Academic Research Proposal

- Definition of a Research Proposal
- Purpose of a Research Proposal
- Generic Structure of a Research Proposal
- Expanded Structure of a Research Proposal (University customised)
- Academic Study Conceptualisation (Links between and among research title, research gaps, purpose of study, empirical objectives, research questions, and research hypotheses)

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Session 2: Overview of the Study and Research Background

- Introduction/Background of study
- The statement of the problem/problem statement
- Purpose/Aim/Goal/Rationale of the study
- The objectives of the study
- Research question(s), Hypotheses
- Research gap, justification and contribution of the study
- Limitations of the study and Assumptions
- Scope of the study
- Definitions of key terms, concepts and variables

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Session 3: Reviewing Literature

- The purpose of Literature Review
- The Sources of Literature Review
- Tips on how to conduct Literature Review
- Literature Review Writing Approach/ style
- Literature Review Citations

3

Day 2

Session 4: Literature Review – Research Context

Literature Review – Research Context

- Definition of a Research Context
- Purpose of the Research Context
- Situating a Research Problem in a Research Context
- Scope of a Research Context
- Characteristics and composition of a Research Context
- Literature Review – Theoretical Grounding
- Defining theoretical grounding – theories, theoretical models and theoretical frameworks)

1

Session 5: Literature Review: Theoretical Grounding

- Purpose of theoretical grounding
- Identifying and select theories/frameworks/models to ground a study.
- How to ground a study in theory(s), model(s) and framework(s).
- Theoretical Critique, Gaps and Value proposition

Literature Review: Empirical Literature

- Empirical literature content – what to include!
- Empirical literature review writing template
- Empirical literature writing style (Critique and discussion)

2

Session 6: Conceptual Model and Hypotheses Development

- Research Model Conceptualisation and description
- Research Hypotheses Development Template (A 5 Stage Practical Approach)
- How to State Research Hypotheses

3

Day 3

Session 7: Research Methodology and Design

Research Philosophy
- Ontology (Subjective or Objective)
- Epistemology – Research Paradigms
- Research types (Quantitative, Qualitative and Mixed Method)
- Research approaches/processes (Deductive, Inductive and Abductive)
- Research strategies

Comparisons of Research types
- Quantitative, Qualitative and Mixed Method

Justifications of Selecting a Research type

1

Research Design

Sampling design:
- Target Population
- Sampling Frame
- Sample Size
- Sampling Method

- Instrument design
- Data Collection Techniques
- Data Analysis Approach
- Assessment of Reliability and Validity

Organization of dissertation or thesis
- Thesis Chapters

Ethical Considerations
- Defining ethical considerations or ethical issues.
- Research Purpose and the participants rights.
- Ethics clearance from Ethics Committee and authorization from relevant authorities

2

PRACTICALS, QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Discussion of Research Ideas, Conceptual Models, Literature Review, and Research Designs
- Questions and Answers

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