

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

TEMPLATE

**Research Proposal Template**

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# Title Page

**Title of the project**

“Research Proposal”

Version number

Date of submission

Name of the principal investigator and co-investigators

Highest degree of each investigator and affiliation

Research laboratory

# Introduction/Background

1. **Background of the problem:** Start with the hook and then provide an explanation of relevant issues and the context of the problem.
2. **Definition of concepts and terms:** Define the main concept(s) under study.
3. **Literature review:** Present a summary and discussion of the main findings in the literature with respect to the topic. Identify what has and has not been done in previous research, the controversies, and the gaps.
4. **Rationale:** The reason you would like to conduct the way you are proposing it. What is the gap that is going to be filled? What is its significance on a larger scale?
5. **The aim:** A statement about the purpose or objective of the study.
6. **The research question:** The question to be answered throughout the research process.
7. **The hypothesis:** The outcome you expect or predict.
8. **Specific objectives:** Indicate specific research objectives.

# Research Methods and Materials

1. **Study design:** Indicate the study type, direction, and temporality.
2. **Population and sampling:**
   1. Target and attainable populations: specify your target population (population with the condition/health problem), your accessible population, or the population that you can reach or measure (consider physical limitations) and your eligibility criteria (inclusion/exclusion).
   2. Sample: minimum sample size needed (consider confidence level and power of the study).
   3. Sampling frame: specify the list of potential participants from which you will draw your sample (list of hospitalized patients, list of children at a school, etc.).
   4. Selection strategy: specify your sampling method (random or non-random, one stage or multi-stage, etc.)
   5. Recruitment strategy: specify how you will recruit your participants (consider recruitment centres, invitation and consent to participate).
3. **Data collection methods:**
   1. Variables: define your primary and secondary variables or endpoints.
   2. Data collection tool(s): define and explain your tools (questionnaires, forms, etc.), and procedure to collect data (face-to-face interview, self-administered tool, blood pressure measurement, etc.).
4. **Plan of analysis:** define how you will manage and analyse your collected data to answer the study objectives. Specify software that will be used, statistical tests, and statistical significance.

**For interventional studies, consider adding the following sections:**

1. Study intervention, duration, (and route of administration): describe each intervention (drug, vaccine, medical device, public health program, awareness campaign), whether prophylactic or therapeutic, dose and duration, if applicable, and administration of each. Discuss how the intervention is acquired (or developed), stored, and disposed of, and the documentation for intervention accountability, if applicable. Also, record the medications restricted, allowed, and required, and the extent to which they are tracked and documented, if applicable.
2. Control group, randomisation, and blinding: define your control group (placebo or comparator intervention), and any randomisation or blinding of participants, if applicable.
3. Safety assessment: list any expected adverse events (with their definitions), and how these could be measured, and managed, if applicable.
4. Intervention discontinuation: list criteria or reasons for intervention discontinuation and how you could meet them.
5. Planned population for analysis: intention to treat, or per protocol, or both.

# Ethical Considerations

Discuss the ethical considerations of your study:

1. Confidentiality measures.
2. Potential risks or harms over participants.
3. Anonymity of participants.
4. Informed consent.
5. Ethical approval.

# Conclusion

1. **Expected results** (optional): based on previous research/literature, pilot study and/or investigators’ expertise
2. **Expected limitations and biases:** discuss potential issues or biases (information/selection/confounding) that may be encountered in the study
3. **Significance or added value of the study:** discuss the strengths of your study in terms of added value to public health and/or clinical practice.

# Institutional Framework

1. **Affiliation or Setting:** University or hospital or other
2. **Research funding:** if any, specify the organisation(s) that will be funding your research.
3. **Role of each investigator:** from the conception of the study to the development of tools, selection of participants, data collection, data entry and management, and data analysis, etc.
4. **Conflicts of interest:** if any, specify potential conflicts of interest between investigators or authors.

# Time Table

Plan your research by dividing tasks to do over weeks or months:

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| --- | --- |
| **Time Period (Months/Year)** | **Activities/ Procedures** |
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# Expected Research Budgeting

Specify the estimated cost of each procedure or material to be included in the study:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Procedure or Material** | **Estimated Cost** | **Covered How/ By Whom (optional)** |
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| **Total** |  |  |

# References

Include all references used to develop your introduction and methods sections.

# Appendices

1. Data collection tool(s), e.g., questionnaires, validated scales, etc.
2. Invitation letter and Consent form.
3. Investigators’ resume.
4. Other documents.