

Research Statement Template (MPhil / PhD Applications)

The word limit for the research proposal is 1,500 words, with the exception of Law applications, which may be up to 3,000 words. Statements exceeding this limit will not be considered.

1. Research Title

Provide a concise title that clearly reflects the central research question(s) of your proposed study.

2. Research Question

State the main research question your project aims to address. Briefly outline the overall aim and key objectives that will guide your investigation.

3. Reasons Why

Briefly explain your motivation for choosing this topic and what you hope to gain from the research.

4. Brief Literature Review

Summarise the key literature underpinning your project. Demonstrate awareness of major debates, theories, and trends in your area; consult recent work including publications by potential supervisors; and identify the gap or uncertainty your research will address.

5. Methods and Analysis

Describe your data-collection methods (qualitative, quantitative, archival, mixed methods, etc.) and explain how you will analyse the data to answer your research questions. Provide as much detail as possible.

6. Research Location

State where the research will be conducted (country, organisation, community, digital environment, etc.) or limitations.

7. Data

Outline your planned data sources, including: primary or secondary data, anticipated sample size, target population(s), and geographic/contextual location of data sources.

8. Advancing Knowledge

Explain how your project will contribute to existing scholarship and address current gaps

9. 8. Ethical Considerations (optional but recommended)

Briefly identify any ethical issues relevant to your study and how they will be managed in line with institutional ethical guidelines.

10. Reference List

List all works cited in your Research Statement using a consistent academic referencing style (e.g., APA, Harvard).