



GENDER INSTITUTE HIGHER DEGREES COMMITTEE
MASTER OR DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY CONCEPT NOTE

FIRST SUBMISSION		RESUBMISSION	
------------------	--	--------------	--

CANDIDATE'S DETAILS	TITLE	FIRST NAMES	SURNAME
STUDENT NUMBER			

PREVIOUS UNIVERSITY	PREVIOUS DEGREE	DISCIPLINE	TITLE OF THESIS

SEE CHOI	MPHIL	
	DPHIL	
PROPOSED TITLE (Max 20 words)		
PROPOSED SUPERVISOR (if any)		
PROPOSED CO-SUPERVISOR		
DESIRED REGISTRATION DATE		

Introduction

[1 page]

1. Introduce your topic
2. Give the background and the context of the study
3. State your study's aims/objectives (What does the study hope to achieve?)
 - a. To investigate/ interrogate...
 - b. To examine...
 - c. To explore...
4. State your study's research questions:
 - a. What...?
 - b. How...?
 - c. Why...?
5. State the rationale/justification/so what/gap of your study/ statement of the problem
 - a. Why does this research need to be conducted?
 - b. What is the gap in knowledge?

Summary of Preliminary Literature Review

[2 pages]

1. Give a summarised discussion of literature on the topic of study, focusing on the study's keywords. Cite sources, debates, and the state of the field/discipline.
2. Provide a bibliography of relevant and current works (**the last five years**)

Theoretical Framework/ Conceptual Framework

[1 page]

1. Mention your theories/theoretical/ conceptual framework.
2. Cite the key theoretical concepts/ the theory/s that you will use in analysing your material.

Proposed research design, methods/ procedure

[1 page]

1. Describe your methodology (define it, note its strengths, say why you think it is the best for this study)
2. Describe your methods of data collection (define each method, note their strengths and limitations, say why you think they are the best for this study; state exactly how you are going to be using the method)
3. State your methods of data analysis (define each method, note their strengths and limitations, say why you think they are the best for this study; state exactly how you are going to be using the method)
4. Sampling (state and define your sampling method; note its strengths and limitations; say why you think it is the best sampling method for a study of this nature; specify your sampling technique; justify the population/sample size)

5. Reliability; Validity; Rigour; Trustworthiness; Generalisability (How are you going to ensure reliability; validity, rigour, trustworthiness and generalisability of your study?)
For instance:

Construct validity: How are you going to ensure that you are actually “measuring” what you set out to “measure”?

Internal validity: How are you going to ensure that independent and dependent variables in your study are causally linked or related?

External validity: How are you going to ensure that your study’s results/findings/conclusions are generalisable to other times, places, and persons?

Ethical Considerations

[half-a-page]

- State how you will ensure that your study is ethically sound/respects and does not violate the rights of those you are going to be interviewing, observing etc.
 - Explain how you will get ethics approval/clearance.

Original Contribution to (Scientific) Knowledge

[half-a-page]

- State what new ground your study aims to break; gap that it fills; what it will add to existing knowledge and debates

Proposed Structure of Study

[half-a-page]

- Outline the structure and content of your chapters/how many chapters your study will have and what each chapter will contain or do (from introduction to conclusion).

Reference List

[APA style...] (Latest version)

Student Signature

Student:

Date:

Acknowledgement of Receipt

Executive Director Gender Institute..... Date:

Executive Director Research and Innovation.....Date.....