

# Research proposal – an example

The following is a suggested format for a research proposal.

## Cover Page

The cover page should show:

- the title;
- the student's name and student number;
- the name of the University;
- the name of the degree sought;
- the name of the principal supervisor; and
- the date of submission.

## Abstract

The abstract should be self contained, concise, readable, and one page or less. It should do, why you believe it needs to be done and what the results will mean in theory.

## Introduction

### *The Background to the Study*

This section sets the scene for a naive reader who knows nothing about your research.

### *The Significance of the Study*

This section states why it is important to do the research.

### *The Purpose of the Study or a Statement of the Problem*

This section states, in about a paragraph, what you expect to achieve by doing this research gave rise to the research. This problem statement may be presented in broad terms

### *Research Questions*

These are unambiguous questions that the research is designed to answer.

### *Hypotheses*

These are clear statements that the research is designed to test.

### *Definitions of Terms or Operational Definitions*

Define any important terms used in the research questions or elsewhere in the thesis.