

# FACULTY OF ARTS UNIVERSITY OF MALTA

## **MPhil/PhD candidature – Research proposal template**

The detailed research proposal should be at least 1000 words long but exceed 5000 words (excluding the list of sources cited and bibliography) be presented in the format suggested below.

Please remember that:

- The principal criteria for the award of a PhD are that the research constitutes a significant contribution to knowledge in a particular field of study and that it includes evidence of originality.
- The proposal is about identifying a viable topic and a plan of approach following the research proposal template below. You need to show that a considerable amount of reading around the subject has been carried out.

### Research proposal template

#### **1. Working title:**

- Provide a working title that describes the nature and scope of the research project.

#### **2. Statement on topic, aims, rationale:**

- Identify the general subject area and outline how your topic relates to the field.
- Establish why it is a significant topic and what contribution your work is expected to make.
- Identify a working hypothesis where appropriate.

#### **3. Situating the research:**

- This part of the proposal, often referred to as a literature review, should anchor your research topic in the particular area of academic discourse pertinent to the field.
- In order to demonstrate that the research project makes a significant contribution to the field, you need to show that you are aware of the traditions and recent research in the field.
- If you want to take up a theoretical position or specific concepts, identify which stands and concepts are useful and how you will apply them to achieve a particular result or reach particular conclusions.