

Title

Try to make this as clear and simple as you can

Project Summary

This should be a single paragraph. It should provide a clear snapshot of your planned research that the reader can understand quickly. Avoid any jargon that is not a key term.

Project Overview

Outline the context and key information that supports your planned research. Try to make this as succinct as possible. Funders tend to offer 500-1000 words for this.

You may want to include some or all of the following:

- Background and context to the topic. Why this? Why is it interesting?
- Your contribution to or angle on the topic. What has been said? What are you doing that's different? Why is that important?
- Research questions. What are you hoping to answer, discover, or learn?
- Relevant models or similar approaches (if relevant)
- Expected outcome if this is appropriate. What do you hope the project will uncover?

Research Questions

What do you need to outline? What do you hope to explore? What do you hope to understand? I suggest a maximum of five questions. Try to create flow or connection between them and avoid questions that could be a thesis of their own. Try to be specific.

Methodology

How will find answers to your research questions? What methods and techniques will you use and why? Aim for a maximum of 300 words

Explain how you are going to do your research. Are you going to the archives? Which ones and to see what? Are you interviewing people? What kind of interviews? Survey? Questionnaire? Free discussion? Are you planning activities? Are you including tests? Will there be a pilot study where you test your method? Are you incorporating creative methods? What are they and how will they interact with a written thesis?¹

You may need to cite examples of good practice or theories that validate your approach. For example, Alexis Pauline Gumbs has combined the study of water mammals and ecology with Black Studies to consider how we might learn to co-exist with nature while carrying intergenerational trauma.

Ethical Considerations

Will you be working with people? Will you be dealing with a sensitive topic? Does your research have any practical risks? What are they and how will you address them?

Planned Project Timeline

Briefly map how you plan to tackle your project across the timeline of your degree. This is normally 3-4 years for full-time PhD students and 6-8 years for part-time PhD students

References/Bibliography

¹ Some creative PhDs have different word count to performance/creative output ratios. Look this up.