

Academic & Research Study Plan Template

For Master's, PhD & Research-Oriented Scholarships

HOW TO USE THIS TEMPLATE

Replace the bracketed instructions with your own information. Use your real experiences, goals and plans. Never invent achievements, research experience or university details. Always follow the scholarship's official word limit and instructions.

1. Academic Profile & Motivation

GUIDE: Introduce your academic background and explain how your studies or experience led to your research interest.

I completed/am currently pursuing [Degree Name] in [Field/Major] at [University].

Throughout my academic studies, I developed a particular interest in [research area/subject].

My experience with [course/project/research/internship/work] introduced me to [specific issue/problem].

I therefore intend to pursue [Master's/PhD Degree] in [Program/Field], with an academic focus on [specific research area].

2. Academic Problem or Research Interest

GUIDE: Identify a focused issue you want to understand. Avoid trying to solve an overly broad problem.

My primary academic interest is [research topic].

The issue I am particularly interested in is [specific problem].

This issue is important because [academic/business/social/technological/economic importance].

I would like to explore how [research question or relationship].

3. Proposed Research Direction

GUIDE: Give a provisional research direction unless the scholarship requires a full research proposal. Your topic can be refined with a supervisor.

Provisional Research Topic: [Write your proposed research topic here]

My proposed research will focus on [topic].

The main objective will be to examine [specific issue] and understand [what you want to discover].

The study may explore the relationship between [Factor A] and [Factor B], with attention to [specific context/population/industry/country].

The research direction may be refined after consultation with my supervisor and further review of relevant literature.

4. Research Objectives

GUIDE: Write 3–5 clear objectives that directly relate to your research topic.

1. Examine [specific issue].
2. Analyze [relationship/problem/process].
3. Identify [factor/challenge/opportunity].
4. Evaluate [method/strategy/system].
5. Develop or recommend [possible practical/theoretical outcome].

5. Research Questions

GUIDE: Turn your objectives into focused questions that your study could realistically investigate.

1. How does [Factor A] affect [Factor B]?
2. What are the major factors influencing [specific issue]?
3. How can [method/technology/strategy] improve [specific outcome]?
4. What challenges affect [population/industry/organization]?
5. What practical recommendations could be developed from the findings?

6. Academic Preparation

GUIDE: Explain why your previous education and experience have prepared you for this research direction.

My previous academic training in [Degree/Field] has provided me with knowledge of [Subject 1], [Subject 2], and [Subject 3].

Through [project/research/course/internship/work], I developed experience in [research/analysis/software/technical/business skills].

These experiences have prepared me to further explore [research field] at graduate level.

However, I need deeper knowledge of [knowledge gap], which is one reason I want to pursue advanced study in this field.

7. Proposed Academic Development Plan

GUIDE: Explain how you will progress from foundation to research and final academic output.

Phase 1 — Foundation & Literature Review: I plan to strengthen my understanding of [core subjects] and review existing research related to [topic].

Phase 2 — Methodology & Data Skills: I intend to develop skills in [quantitative/qualitative/mixed-method] research and, where relevant, tools such as [SPSS/R/Python/Excel/NVivo/etc.].

Phase 3 — Research Project: I intend to conduct research on [topic]. The design and methodology will be refined with my supervisor and program requirements.

Phase 4 — Analysis & Academic Output: I plan to analyze findings, evaluate implications, and prepare my dissertation/thesis or required academic work. Where appropriate, I would like to explore academic presentation or publication opportunities.

8. Proposed Research Methodology

GUIDE: Keep this section simple unless the scholarship asks for a detailed proposal. Never claim access to data, participants or facilities you do not have.

The research may use a [quantitative/qualitative/mixed-method] approach depending on the final research question and available data.

Potential data sources may include [surveys/interviews/public datasets/company data/secondary research/etc.].

The information may be analyzed using [appropriate method/software].

The final methodology will be refined after reviewing relevant literature and discussing the research direction with my academic supervisor.

9. Why I Chose This University

GUIDE: Verify every university-specific claim through the official university website.

I have selected [University Name] because of its academic strength in [field] and relevance to my proposed area of study.

The [Department/School/Program] offers opportunities to study [specific subjects], which relate to my academic interests.

I am particularly interested in [research group/faculty/laboratory/course] because [specific reason].

The university's academic environment would provide an opportunity to develop my knowledge, research skills and international academic perspective.

10. Expected Academic Outcomes

GUIDE: List the knowledge and skills you expect to gain by completing the program.

- Advanced knowledge of [field]
- Research skills in [area]
- Analytical skills related to [area]
- Practical knowledge of [technology/method]
- Academic writing and communication skills

These outcomes will prepare me for [career/research/academic objective].

11. Expected Contribution of My Research

GUIDE: Describe possible academic and practical value without promising results before conducting the research.

The proposed research may contribute to a better understanding of [problem/topic].

From an academic perspective, it may provide additional insight into [research gap].

From a practical perspective, the findings could potentially help [organizations/businesses/policymakers/researchers/community] by [specific application].

I understand that the final contribution will depend on the research findings and scope of the completed study.

12. Career & Research Plan After Graduation

GUIDE: Connect your research training to realistic short- and long-term goals.

Short-Term: After completing my [degree], I intend to work as [position/field] or continue research in [area]. I plan to apply the knowledge and research skills gained to [professional objective].

Long-Term: I aim to [career/research/entrepreneurial/academic goal] and contribute to [industry/academic field/country/community].

Where possible, I hope to remain involved in research, professional development or knowledge-sharing activities.

13. Contribution to My Home Country

GUIDE: Explain a practical way your education and international experience could be applied after graduation.

After completing my studies, I intend to use the knowledge and international academic experience gained through [University/Program] in [Home Country].

My intended contribution will focus on [specific sector/problem].

I hope to apply my expertise in [specific skill/field] to support [organizations/industry/research/community].

In the longer term, I would also like to contribute through [research/training/entrepreneurship/education/consultancy/industry work].

14. Final Statement

GUIDE: End by connecting your academic preparation, research direction, program fit and future contribution.

Pursuing [Degree Name] at [University Name] represents an important step in my academic and professional development.

My previous education has given me a foundation in [field], while this program would allow me to develop advanced expertise in [specialization/research area].

I am prepared to approach my studies with commitment, curiosity and a willingness to learn from academic and international experiences.

I hope to use the knowledge and research skills gained during the program to pursue my long-term goals and make a practical contribution to [field/industry/home country].

Final Submission Checklist

- ☐ My research topic is relevant to my proposed degree.
- ☐ My research problem is focused and understandable.
- ☐ My objectives and research questions match.
- ☐ My proposed methodology is realistic and not exaggerated.
- ☐ I have explained my academic preparation.
- ☐ I researched the university, department and relevant research opportunities.
- ☐ Any faculty member, laboratory or research center I mention is real and relevant.
- ☐ I have not invented research experience, publications or resources.
- ☐ My research interests connect with my career plans.
- ☐ My study plan follows the scholarship's exact requirements and word limit.

Universal Scholarships tip: Your study plan should be specific, realistic and consistent with your CV, transcripts and other application documents.