MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS HO CHI MINH CITY

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

FOR PhD PROGRAM APPLICATION

Note: This research proposal reflects your research interests as well as your research capacity and methodology. The research topic may change during your doctoral studies and after discussions with your academic supervisor(s).

Full name:
Address:
Phone number:
Email:
1. Title of research The research title should briefly and clearly summarize the study's main idea. (Recommended length: 15 words)
2. Literature review / Research background Explain how your research topic emerges from the broader academic context of the field. Provide an overview of existing studies, whether theoretical or empirical. Identify current theories and/or summarize prior empirical studies in the field. Highlight the contribution your research will make to the discipline (e.g., theoretical, conceptual, methodological, or empirical evidence not previously available). Present the research topic, research questions, and the significance of studying this topic. Clarify the rationale for conducting this research, which will serve as the foundation for the subsequent research questions and objectives. (Recommended length: 1,000–1,200 words)
3. Research objectives or research questions Define the objectives/questions of your research. Ideally, include: One overarching research question/objective. Two or three specific sub-questions/sub-objectives. Notes: - Research questions may take different forms and do not necessarily need to be testable hypotheses. - The scope of the research must be relatively narrow. A common reason for unsuccessful PhD dissertations is choosing a topic that is too broad. - Remember: a dissertation is the starting point of a long-term research journey, not a short-term consulting project. (Recommended length: 100–300 words)

4. Research methodology (*choose one of two approaches*)

4a. Empirical research

- Outline the design and roadmap of your empirical study.
- Reference prior empirical studies in the field if relevant.
- Specify the methods to be used and justify their selection.
- Describe sampling methods (sample size, type, characteristics) if surveys are used.
- Identify secondary datasets if applicable, and explain why they are chosen.
- Explain how the empirical study will be conducted and why.
- Discuss data quality, representativeness, and objectivity.
- Cite the studies that inspire your methodological choices.

Important: Many applicants are rejected at this stage because they cannot explain their methodology in detail, defend their choices, or demonstrate familiarity with key empirical studies in the field.

(Recommended length: 1,000–1,200 words)

4b. Theoretical research

- No primary or secondary datasets are required.
- Clearly explain the theories to be examined.
- Critically evaluate these theories to address your research question.
- Theoretical research involves analyzing a topic/question by critiquing existing theories and proposing new theoretical perspectives or approaches.
- Identify traditional theories in the field, explain why they are relevant, and justify the need for new approaches or theories.

(Recommended length: 1,000–1,200 words)

5. Personal evaluation

Present your own thoughts on potential challenges and obstacles in conducting empirical or theoretical research.
Discuss ethical issues related to your topic.
Explain how these challenges may affect your research.
Outline possible strategies to overcome them.
Supervisors are particularly interested in how doctoral candidates anticipate and address difficulties during the research process.
(Recommended length: 300–500 words)

6. Conclusion

Summarize the expected main contributions of your dissertation and explain how you plan to achieve these outcomes.
(Recommended length: 100–200 words)

7. Research timeline

Provide a plan from now until the completion of the dissertation.
Remember: you must also complete coursework in the PhD program.
Ideally, divide the plan into 3-month phases.

8. References List the references cited in your proposal. - Quality is more important than quantity. - Show that the references are essential not only for your topic but also for your methodology.
Suggested academic supervisors (*optional***):** **1. Supervisor 1:** **Institution:** **2. Supervisor 2:** **Institution:**
Date of submission: