Annex F
For Applicant Reference

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH PROGRAMME (HSSRP) RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR [YYYY] MENTORSHIP

Name of School: _____

Name of Applicant (s) (as reflected in NRIC; do not use put names all in capital letters)

Note: A maximum of three members per team is allowed.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Our application for mentorship is for the consideration of:
Copy and paste the Expert-Mentor's full name (including designation) and the matching Topic Reference Number exactly as shown in the current HSSRP Topic Proposal List. If the Expert-Mentor offers more than one topic, check that you have selected the correct reference number.

Name of Expert-Mentor	
Topic Reference Number:	**R __**

S

PART 1

Research Proposal:

The length of the proposal should not be more than 1000 words.

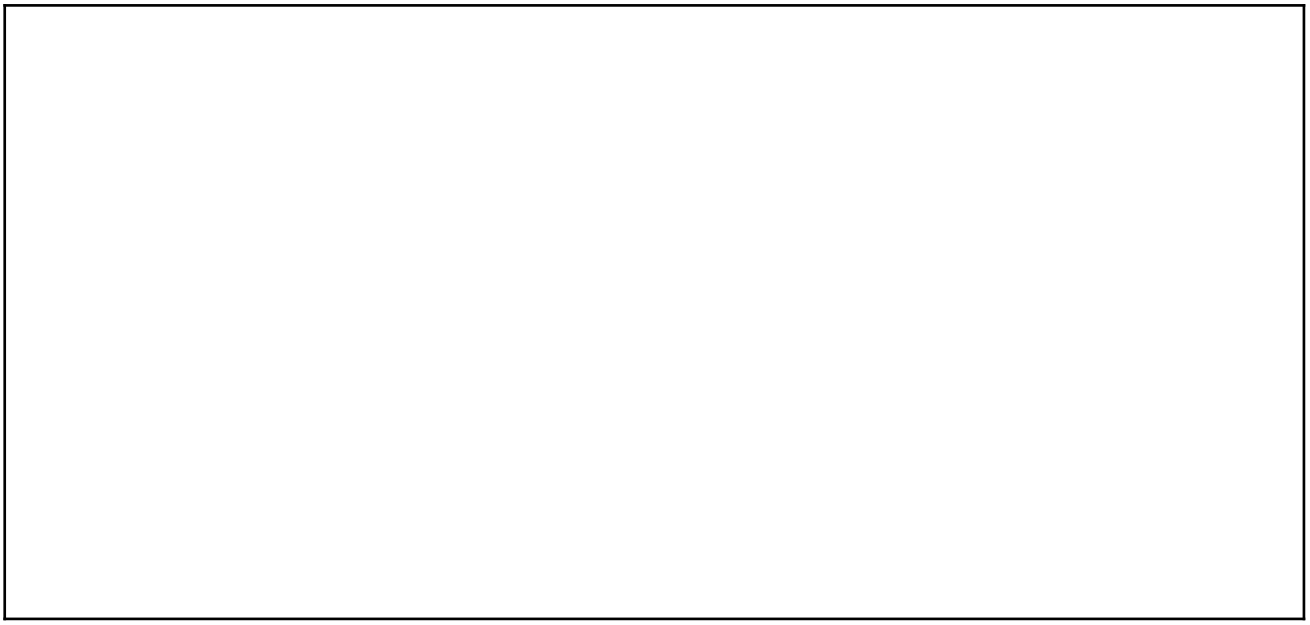
See "Requirements of HSSRP Proposal" (as attached at the end of this document) to understand the key elements of a research proposal and the intellectual standards to be upheld. One proposal should be submitted per project/team. ***Proposals that lack ANY element will NOT be sent on to Expert-Mentors for consideration****.*

Please also find out and read about your prospective Expert-Mentor – what his/her areas of research are – to ensure that your proposal can supported by his/her expertise and his subject discipline. If readings have been attached by Expert-Mentor for the topic proposed, please read them and use them to guide the crafting of your proposal!

Note on the use of Generative AI: *You may use any generative AI or AI-assisted writing tool to assist your thinking, for example to explore ideas or clarify concepts, but the writing of this proposal must be entirely your own. As the researcher, you are responsible for the independent, original, and creative inquiry that lies at the heart of research, as well as the synthesis of information and perspectives that give your work its intellectual value. You must also critically evaluate any AI-generated content you have drawn upon.* ***You take full responsibility for the accuracy, originality, and integrity of everything you submit. AI-generated writing is NOT acceptable.*** *Where AI tools have been used in any thinking or preparatory capacity, this must be acknowledged clearly. Failure to do so may affect the consideration of your application.*

Proofread your proposal and check the formatting: Check that no text is cut off at the end of the page, for e.g. by restrictive table formats. This is especially so if you have worked on this document using Google Suite Services.

TYPE YOUR RESEARCH PROPOSAL BELOW



PART 2

To be completed by the individual applicant or each member of a team, and submitted in the same document with Part 1 as a soft copy attachment (in **MS Word** format)

Individual application: Complete Part 2 once.
Team application: Each member must complete a separate Part 2. Copy and paste the entire Part 2 table once for each additional member, up to a maximum of three members. Include all completed Part 2 tables in the same document.

Member 1/2/3* * Delete what is not applicable.
Name:
Research Experience, if applicable (Briefly describe the project and highlight key insights or lessons from doing the project. Max: 200 words)
Achievement in Humanities, if any:
Personal Statement Explain why you would like to participate in the programme and what about your interests, ways of thinking, and approach to learning makes you well suited for research in the Humanities and Social Sciences. (Max: 300 words)

For your final submission, ensure that this document is saved and sent as an MS Word file attachment (.docx). Do NOT submit via a cloud link or shared document access.

Requirements for Humanities and Social Sciences Research (HSSRP) Proposal

A research proposal outlines your proposed research — the key issues and questions you want to address, your understanding of the gaps in existing scholarship, the value of your research in bridging them, and the approach or method you plan to take.

It is the most important document in your HSSRP application. It gives the Organising Committee an understanding of your interest and readiness for research, and your ability to communicate clearly and logically. It also allows the Committee to match you with an Expert-Mentor whose expertise can best support your research.

Before submitting, **ensure that your proposal contains all the key elements and meets the intellectual standards given below**.

No	Key elements of research proposal	Questions to ask yourself	Intellectual Standards
1	**Research Area and Title** Identify your research area. Give a working title that captures its essence. (This title may be tentative and may be revised in the course of your research.)	• What is your research interest? • What is your proposed title for research paper?	Be **clear and specific** in stating your area of research and crafting your research title. NB: Key words that describe your project should be in the title.
2	**Research Question, Thesis or Hypothesis & Value of Study** State your key research question. State your hypothesis / preliminary thesis (You may change this in the course of your study, in the light of more information/data.) State the purpose of the research and the value of your research to the field.	• What is your research question? • What is your hypothesis / proposition / key argument in relation to the research question? • **Why** are you doing this study? • What is/are the **gap(s) in the field** you are trying to bridge? • What is **new and interesting** about your research study? • How can you contribute to the field with this research project?	The research question should be **clear and focused**, summarising what you want to investigate. Your hypothesis / thesis statement should be **clear and specific** to guide your investigation. The topic should be **significant — relevant** to contemporary society, timely in its concerns, and contributing to our understanding of people, communities, or the world we live in. A research question that is too broad, too obvious, too familiar, or too easily answered does not warrant research. The **depth and breadth** of proposed research should be **achievable** within the duration of the mentorship.
3	**Literature Review** Offer a concise review of the relevant literature and theories you have read so far in relation to the research area. **A review is not a listing.** Do not give a blow-by-blow narration of "X says this, Y says that". Instead, **show how the ideas across your sources relate to each other** — what do they agree on, where do they differ, and what does that tell you about the state of knowledge in your area of research?	• What are the **key discussions and debates** on the research area? • **Why is there debate or disagreement** on the issue? • How does your research **relate or respond to** what has been done by others in the field?	Be selective in your review and include only **relevant and significant** information related to the area of study. Be **accurate** in your representation of what your source actually argues, finds, or concludes.

No	Key elements of research proposal	Questions to ask yourself	Intellectual Standards
4	**Research Method** Outline the key research method or approach you plan to use to achieve your research aims.	• How will you go about conducting your research to achieve your research aims? • How is your research method/approach appropriate for your study? • Where and from whom will you get your data?	The research method should be **relevant** to the area of study and fulfil the purpose of the study. Be **clear** in justifying your choice of research method / approach, showing how it fulfils your research aims.
5	**References** State the **key reference texts and resources** you have read so far that you believe will contribute to your research.	• What are the **key publications** you have read or known that are related to your research interest?	Show critical reflection in your selection of texts in the reference, citing only those which are **significant and relevant** to your area of study. Resources should be *scholarly/academic sources*, NOT newspaper articles or Wikipedia sites. *Ensure that every source cited is an actual academic work you have read.* Do NOT rely on AI-generated summaries of sources — AI may produce accounts that are inaccurate, imprecise, or incomplete in their representation of what a source actually argues or concludes. Do NOT cite AI tools as sources.