

Research Proposal for Research Masters (MLitt) and PhD in Geography

Submission of a structured research proposal is a requirement for application to our MLitt and PhD programmes. Proposals and a CV should be sent to the Director for Graduate Studies. Decisions on applications are made by Geography's Graduate Committee.

We recommend that you make contact with the Director for Graduate Studies prior to submitting your research project. He will be pleased to provide you with whatever advice possible in formulating your project and in identifying potential supervisors whose area of academic interest most closely relates to your own proposed research. Establishing a good two-way working environment at an early stage is critical to the success of a project. Details of all staff members are to be found on our webpages: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/geography>.

The research proposal should be structured under the following headings:

1. *Working title of the research project*
2. *Description of the proposed research (to include aims, objectives, central research question, relevant theoretical/conceptual frameworks):* This should state the key issue that your research intends to address, and the key theoretical debates and/or empirical phenomena that are underpinning it. In other words, what questions are driving your research, what is it you are trying to find out by undertaking this project? (1,500 words)
3. *Relationship of project to existing research (describe how the project will make a new contribution to knowledge):* This should include a brief literature review which illustrates your familiarity with contemporary conceptual and theoretical debates and issues pertaining to the subject area in question. This section requires you to clearly situate your research within a specific frame of reference; i.e. contextualise it with existing appropriate research perspectives, whilst at the same time propose how your research will extend and add to these perspectives or address gaps in knowledge. (500 words)
4. *Research methods (outline of appropriate investigative and analytic methods):* This should outline the possible methodological approaches that will be applied. Include a discussion on the nature and feasibility of evidence collection and a description of any specialist data or skills required to undertake the project. Outline any ethical issues related to the research. (500 words)
5. *Research plan (outline a schedule for the completion of tasks/phases of the project and efficient development of the research from year to year):* To ensure the efficient management and successful completion of the project a schedule for the completion of tasks/phases of the project should be outlined. Include a clear explanation of how the project - and the applicant's subsistence - could be funded. (500 words)
6. *Reference List* (list a bibliography of no more than 10 items).
7. *Name of potential supervisor(s).*

For further information, please contact:

Dr Gordon Bromley, Director of Graduate Studies
School of Geography and Archaeology
National University of Ireland, Galway
Ph: 00 353 (0) 91 49 2128 Email: gordon.bromley@nuigalway.ie