

## **Guidelines for Writing a Research Proposal for Doctoral Applications – Doctoral Research Centre Public Health**

The application for acceptance as a doctoral candidate must include a detailed written proposal outlining the **doctoral project that is to be independently conducted**. The research proposal should specify whether the thesis will be structured as a monograph or a cumulative thesis. It should be **between 15 and 25 pages** long (including title page and reference lists) and adhere to the standards of **academic research**.

The presentation of the doctoral project should be divided into the following **sections**. The inclusion of clear and descriptive subheadings is recommended.

Title page (see sample on page 2)

1. Background
  2. State of research
  3. Theoretical framework
  4. Thesis aims and question(s)
  5. Methodology
  6. Anticipated outcome
  7. Proposed timeline
- List of references



The following **excerpt from the Doctoral Degree Regulations** of the Doctoral Research Centre Public Health dated 18 July 2024 specifies the criteria used by the Doctoral Committee to **assess research proposals**.


**§ 5a Acceptance as a doctoral student, paragraph (1)e:** *“the research proposal should outline the thesis subject, the state of current research, the objectives and anticipated scientific contribution of the project and include a description of the methodological approach and resource planning. The research proposal must also be accompanied by a statement indicating in which language the thesis will be written. The proposal must also demonstrate in an appropriate academic quality the public health relevance of the doctoral topic, initial approaches to the theoretical framework, a clear and logical derivation of the research questions, the suitability and appropriateness of the research design and methodology as well as the feasibility of the project. Furthermore, the independence of the project must be evident, particularly if the doctorate is conducted as part of a research project.”*

The following **formal requirements** must be observed when preparing the proposal:

- Font type and size for the main text: Nunito Sans, Arial, Calibri or Tahoma, 11 pt.
- Maximum 1.5 line spacing
- Page margins: 2.5 cm at the top, bottom and right; 3 cm on the left

## Sample title page for research proposal

		Promotionszentrum <b>Public Health</b>
<b>Research Proposal</b> <b>for a Doctoral Project</b> <b>Dr Public Health (Dr P.H.)</b>		
<b>Working title of thesis:</b> <b>Here is the working title</b> <b>Here is the subtitle</b>		
First supervisor: Prof. Dr first and last name Second supervisor: Prof. Dr first and last name		
First and last name of applicant Address		
Fulda, date		

  
The title page can be requested as a  
Word document  
(Mail: [andrea.leipold@gw.hs-fulda.de](mailto:andrea.leipold@gw.hs-fulda.de))