

Format: Research Proposal

1. **Title**: The Title of the project should be concise (with sub-title, if any) reflecting the scope of the investigation.
2. **Statement of the Problem**: The problem to be investigated should be clearly contextualised in the theoretical framework of the discipline. Justification/need for the study and implication of the issue (being studied) for India requires to be presented.
3. **Review of Literature**: The problem identified should be logically linked to other studies on the theme in the available literature delineating the need for the present investigation.
4. **Research Gap**: How this research addresses the knowledge gap in the proposed area of research should be brought out.
5. **Aim of the Project**: The broad aim of the project emphasising the overall thrust of the proposed investigation should be clearly mentioned.
6. **Conceptual Framework** (if applicable): The concepts to be used, their relevance and applicability to the study and their operationalisation should be indicated, wherever required.
7. **Research Questions**: The research questions to be answered/ addressed need to be unequivocally stated, based on the scope of the study.
8. **Tentative Hypotheses**: One or more cogent statements flowing from the research questions which could be validated or nullified.
9. **Research Methodology**.
 - a. **Coverage**: The proposal should clearly indicate the universe of the study (sampling methods, sampling size, units of observation etc. in case it is an empirical study).
 - b. **Data Collection**: The proposal should indicate sources of data, types of data, tools and techniques for collection of various categories of proposed data.
 - c. **Data Analysis**: It should indicate the statistical techniques, if any, proposed to be used in data processing, specific packages for data analysis, content analysis, and techniques proposed to be used etc.
10. **Tentative Chapterisation**: Should reflect the proposed content of the project and research questions that are to be examined.
11. **Duration of the Project**: The duration of the project should not exceed the fellowship period. It should indicate the timeline for the study as also different phases of research, presentation of fellow papers and final research output.

12. **Implications** of the issue from the standpoint of policy inputs or methodological and theoretical constructs, should form part of the research proposal.
13. **References**: The proposal should include a 'List of References' mentioned in the text, along with other important recent additions to the literature on the theme. The references should indicate the author, title, publisher and year of publication. References which are not footnoted need to be mentioned at the end of the proposal.