**MA RESEARCH PROPOSAL FORM**

## Instructions

Students should *not* begin work on writing their project until they have received approval from the Subject Co-Ordinator (currently the MA Program Director).

* This form is to be completed by RES500 and RES501 students *3 – 4 weeks* prior to embarking on their research project.
* Choose your preferred supervisor (and possible alternative supervisors) based on the topic of your project and the supervisor’s area of expertise. You must discuss the project with your intended supervisor well before you intend to commence the research to allow time to refine the project based on feedback from the intended supervisor. Seek advise from the Subject Coordinator if a suitable supervisor doesn’t come to mind.
* You must discuss the project with the RES500/501 Subject Co-ordinator well before you intend to commence the research to allow time to refine the project based on feedback from the intended supervisor.
* You must have your supervisor’s signature and comments (see bottom of form) before submission. Electronic signatures are acceptable.
  + **Note:** the information you include in this form at this early stage of the process will be preliminary and tentative. The background material, methodology and suggested bibliography will be further developed for the actual assessment submission during the semester of study.
* The completed and signed form should be submitted electronically in *Word format* to the RES500/5011 Subject Co-ordinator (currently the MA Program Director). [grant.buchanan@ac.edu.au](mailto:grant.buchanan@ac.edu.au)
* You will then use this form and develop your discussion and methodology further for your proposal submission later in the semester for **grading by your supervisor**. It does not need to be resent to the MA Program director.

## General Guidelines

* **Research question** - This should be a focused, answerable question, not a statement or description. Your method should be determined by your research question. “An exploration of the effective strategies of organisational leadership” is NOT a research question. “What are effective strategies of organisational leadership?” is a question, but it is too broad to be a workable research question. “What are the variables that contribute to increased worker performance in small organisations?” is a much more specific question. (You would need to define what you mean by increased performance and small organisation in your project description).
* **Method** - Describe the specific method. E.g., “a literature review will be undertaken to identify reasons for church growth” – is NOT a method. The method should describe what parameters will be used in the selection of literature, and what process will be used to identify the reasons (i.e., thematic analysis? Content analysis? What technique/process will you follow to identify the reasons?).

**NB:** Due to the limitations of scope and size of a RES500 and RES501 Research Paper, and the impact on timeframes for Ethics Approval, it is strongly recommended that MA RES500 and RES501 Research Projects ***do not involve*** qualitative and quantitative research projects.

## Check

* Have you filled the correct section for your project?
* Has your supervisor commented and signed/dated the form?
* Have you signed and dated the form?
* Is the completed document in Word format?
* For externally marked coursework projects (RES501) – has your supervisor provided suggested names of markers?

**Research Proposal Form**

**To be completed by Student** (note the boxes will expand as necessary)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Student Name |  |
| Student Email |  |
| Faculty and Course |  |
| Project Subject Code and Name  (E.g., RES501 Research Project) |  |
| Subjects completed so far with grades (please list or attach) |  |
| Semester/year in which you wish to enrol |  |
| Project Title |  |
| Research Question |  |
| Brief Background and Significance of the Proposed Project  (max one page) |  |
| Proposed research methodology  (max one page) |  |
| Proposed project outline/ table of contents  (max ½ page) |  |
| Project Timeline  (max ½ page) |  |
| Key References  (max one page) |  |
| Assigned Supervisor |  |

 Click here to enter a date.

Signature of Student Date

I have read the Alphacrucis research policy and agree to abide by it.

**To be completed by Supervisor:**

Names of Proposed Markers for this project (for externally marked RES501coursework project) and brief reason for why each marker is qualified to mark this work. Provide external link to marker’s profile if relevant:

Note: The MA Program Director will approve one of the proposed names.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Supervisor’s recommended marker: |  |

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Primary supervisor’s comments on proposal |  |

 Click here to enter a date.

Signature of Supervisor Date

**To be completed by MA Program Director prior to Semester:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Subject Co-ordinator Comments | |  |
| Is this research project approved by the Subject Co-ordinator?  Yes  Yes pending changes (listed below)  No | | |
| Required changes: |  | |

 Click here to enter a date.

Signature of MA Program Director Date