

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN HUMANITIES

PH.D. DISSERTATION PROPOSAL

Working on a dissertation proposal is intended to provide students with a springboard into the dissertation. It forces students to focus their thoughts and begin their research. Some of the sections of the proposal may end up being used in the initial chapter of the dissertation. The proposal is not meant to be a lengthy exercise in itself or a barrier to beginning work on the dissertation. Normally, students must meet minimal language requirements before their dissertation proposal can be approved.

Students will normally hand in a dissertation proposal within three months of completing their final comprehensive exam. The proposal should be handed in to the student's supervisor for approval of the supervisory committee. The proposal should be between 3,500-5,000 words and should include the following components:

- 1) A working title with brief statement of aim and scope
- 2) Review of existing scholarship on the subject and rationale for the new study in this context, indicating the original contribution expected to be made
- 3) A short critical discussion of the sources and methodology proposed
- 4) A general outline, including a breakdown of the chapters as conceived at this point
- 5) A selective bibliography, including a list of archival and other sources to be consulted, if applicable (5 pages)
- 6) The availability of financial and non-financial resources appropriate for research
- 7) The appropriate paperwork if the research involves human participants
- 8) List of faculty members who have explicitly agreed to serve on the supervisory committee