UNIVERSITY OF BALAMAND

FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT

Doctorate in Business Administration

Initial Research Proposal

Write Your Full Name in Capital Letters

_____

First Name   Middle Name   Last Name

"I certify that this document is solely the result of my personal work. I have cited sources from which I extracted information/data/ideas. I accept the rejection of this project in case it was found to have been plagiarized. Plagiarism is ground for not getting accepted into the program.

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Full Name   Signature   Date

Guidelines for Writing Your Initial Research Proposal

Please use this form in order to organize your initial research proposal. Make sure it contains a comprehensive description of your proposed research. At a later stage, this proposal as well as the methodology will be revisited and an advisor will be assigned to you.

Evaluation Criteria of Initial Research Proposal

This proposal will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. **Relevance to the profession:**
    How relevant is this research to the world of practice? How contemporary is this research? What is the potential impact of this research on the profession? What impact might this research have on industry?

2. **Contribution to the Academic Field:**
    What is the academic added value of this research? How does it advance the state of knowledge? In what way(s) will the output be disseminated to the academic community? What kind of platforms and meetings will this research be of relevance? Is the research based on Field-tested theory and on a sound methodology? Does it fill a gap in the literature?

3. **Doability of the research:**
    The DBA is an applied research experience. Therefore the research needs to be feasible and doable within a pre-determined timetable, within a context that is supportive with regards to resources, and subject to the availability of data. Data needs to be accessible; otherwise the research may be delayed or at times impossible to carry out.

4. **Initial Proposal Form and Content:**
    Is the proposal coherent? Does it read well? Is the language level appropriate and consistent with the levels needed for writing a dissertation? Does it follow a structure? Is it organized in such a way to show that this research is badly needed and carrying out this research will add to the knowledge base and will certainly push the frontiers of knowledge?

Anti-Plagiarism Policy

As a community committed to intellectual endeavor, the University of Balamand recognizes honesty as the foundation of the academic activities of its faculty members and students. UOB strives to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and judgment they need to function in society as educated adults. Falsifying or fabricating the results of one's research, presenting the words, ideas, data, or work of another as one's own, corrupts the essential process of education.

Plagiarism, a form of academic dishonesty, is intentionally or carelessly passing off another person's work as one's own. It is taking and using information, ideas, opinions, theories or another person's actual words without acknowledging the source, thereby creating the impression that the work is one's own.

Thus your research proposal should be submitted in hard and electronic formats and It will be examined for plagiarism using Turnitin. Please note that plagiarism has severe consequences (i.e. cancellation of the project and the possibility of not being allowed to continue with the program.)

Resources for Research

Saunders, M., Lewis, P., Thornhill, A. (2012) Research Methods for Business Students, 6th ed (older edition will do also), Prentice Hall. ISBN-13: 9780273750758

Coffey, A. and Atkinson, P. (1996) Making Sense of Qualitative Data, Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Cohen, L., Manion, L. and Morrison, K. (2000) Research Methods in Education, 5th ed, London: RoutledgeFalmer.

Coleman, M. and Briggs, A. (2002) Research Methods in Educational Leadership and Management, London: Sage Publications.

Creswell, J.W. (2003) Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches, 2nd ed, Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Denzin, N. and Linclon, Y. (2005), The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research, 3rd ed, Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Denzin, N. and Lincoln, Y. (2003) Collecting and Interpreting Qualitative Materials, 2nd ed, Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Descombe, M. (1998) The Good Research Guide, Buckingham, Open University Press.

Kvale, S. (1996) Interviews: An Introduction to Qualitative Research Interviewing, Thousands Oaks: Sage Publications.

Lin, N. (1976) Foundations of Social Research, New York: McGraw-Hill.

Miles, M. and Huberman, A.M. (1994) An Expanded Sourcebook: Qualitative data analysis, 2nd ed, Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Oliver, P. (2008) Writing Your Thesis, 2nd edition, Los Angeles: Sage.

Provan, D. (2009), Giving Great Presentations, U.K.

Trochim, W. (2001) Research Methods Knowledge Base, USA: Atomic Dog Publishing.

Proper Usage of Bibliography

Citing references is a very important part of research and requires attention to detail. Your reference list will contain complete entries for each source of information used in the development of the argument, research and/or experiment, and in the interpretation of the data, including sources of charts, figures and images.

Citations not only document your research but they allow the reader to access your sources for further investigation. When citing sources you must follow the format of a style manual. You cannot choose which pieces of information you will include and the way in which you format that information.

The following rules will apply to any style manual:
- You should not combine styles or change within the document from one style of citation to another one.
- The style Manuals show you the proper abbreviations, capitalization and punctuation to be used in citations.
- You must follow the format shown; you cannot add extra pieces of information, nor should you change the order of the information given. (e.g. If the title of a book is shown in the example as being underlined, you will need to do the same in your citation. You do not have the choice whether or not to underline – you must follow the example.)
- The form of citations for references should closely follow the APA style adopted by the Faculty of Business and Management; follow this link for more information: http://www.balamand.edu.lb/Library/Research/Documents/Manuals/APA6thEdEng.pdf

Format for Research Proposal

Research Proposal Title

The title must indicate the topic in a clear and concise manner.

Research Proposal Summary

This is a summary (no longer than 300 words) of your research proposal. The summary addresses what is being research, what methodology is expected to be used, how accessible is the data, what research questions are going to be answered, what impact would this research have on the professional and academic worlds, and what skills and competencies are going to be developed as a result of this research.

DETAILED PROPOSAL

1. Introduction and Problem Identification

In this part you specify your intended field of specialization (Accounting, Finance, Management, Organizational Behavior, Change Management, Operation Management, Project Management, Marketing, Economics, Human Resources, Banking, International Business, etc…) and area of focus. You must determine the importance and relevance of your subject.

State what the problem is, determine whether this problem is contemporary, state what makes this problem important and what is the significance of studying it. What gap(s) does it fill? Finally, explain why is this topic area of interest to you and how might you develop as a result of carrying it out.

2. Research Aims and Questions

You are required to frame the research topic of choice and refine it into specific questions and/or objectives. Your topic should lend itself to being investigated using SEAM research methodology. Be of an empirical nature, conducted personally by the student as the principal researcher, and planned for completion within the duration of the program. You are also advised to state a provisional title for your proposed topic

3. Preliminary Literature Review

In this part you summarize the previous work done in the field, what is already known and what areas need further investigation. In this section you should have a solid understanding of

the topic and also an understanding of what was done, how it was done, and what gaps are present to justify the research and its questions.

4. Research Methodology

What are the tools and methods for carrying out the research? What makes them appropriate? What is the research population and sample (if any)? What methodology are you going to employ to collect data? What are the tools to be used to reduce the data? How do you intend on expressing your findings?

5. Research Timetable

Show through a Gantt chart or an illustrative timetable the phases of your research, the stops along the way, and the milestones. You should be done in 33 months from the time you start the program.

6. References

In this part you indicate your preliminary list of references which was used to prepare his proposal.