

Thesis Proposal Guidelines

PhD in Anthropology and Sociology

Your application should be accompanied by a research proposal (maximum five pages or 1,500 words) that describes the topic of your research and its relevance, a brief outline of the theoretical debate(s) that inform your project, as well as the research problem and methodology. It should also include a bibliography of no more than two pages that demonstrates your knowledge of current discussions in the field.

We encourage you to look carefully at the profiles of our faculty members before submitting your application to ensure that your proposed topic and regional area of research resonate with the intellectual orientations of the department.

PhD in International Economics or Development Economics

Your thesis proposal should identify the specific topic you intend to pursue and demonstrate familiarity with recent developments in the discipline. The proposal should include: 1) A brief description and motivation of the issue and why we should care about it; 2) A summary of the academic literature, which demonstrates how the proposed research would add to existing knowledge; 3) An outline of the specific steps of the research project. The outline should include a sketch of the underlying theoretical arguments, the specifics of the proposed identification strategy, as well as the data sources to be used.

The proposal should not exceed three pages.

PhD in International History

The doctoral proposal should set out clearly the candidate's topic and delineate a specific research question. The proposal should indicate why the issue matters intellectually and its relevance to international history. The proposal should further discuss the issue's historical context, existing literature on the question, what the proposed research envisions as a contribution, the nature of the sources to be used and the methodology adopted. The proposal should be approximately 1,500 to 2,000 words in length.

PhD in International Law

The thesis proposal should include an executive summary of the thesis proposal of maximum 2000 words and 15-20 pages maximum with the following sections: 1) identification of the research question, its justification and relevance; 2) an outline of the main building blocks of the research plan; 3) a literature review on the subject with an evaluation of the added value of your proposed research); 4) relevant legal sources and instruments (including case law if applicable); 5) methodology (how you intend to carry out the research, according to what criteria); and, finally, 5) a bibliography that demonstrates your knowledge of the field.

PhD in International Relations/Political Science

The thesis proposal should cover the following areas in three pages (maximum):

- Your research interests;
- The specific question or topic you would like to pursue;
- A brief explanation of how this research topic pertains to a specific field in political science and its literature, as well as the expected contribution it will make;
- Why the Graduate Institute and the PhD programme in International Relations/Political Science are a good fit for pursuing your research.