

---

# PhD research proposal guidelines

**University of  
Bedfordshire Hosted  
PhD Program in Amman**

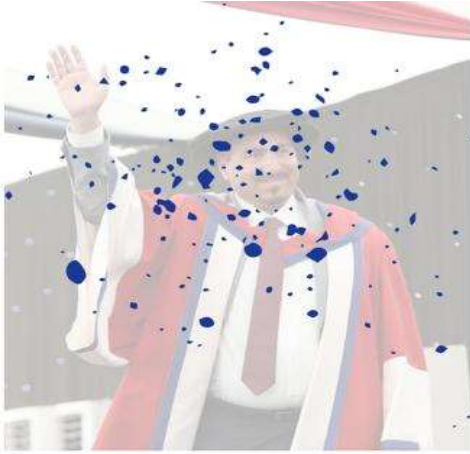
Call or Whatsapp on 00962798002254

Email: [international@meu.edu.jo](mailto:international@meu.edu.jo)

[Recruitment@meu.edu.jo](mailto:Recruitment@meu.edu.jo)



BRIDGING BORDERS, BUILDING FUTURES



## Mish Impossible

تحصل على شهادة دكتوراه من  
جامعة بريطانية و انت في الأردن



**Getting started on your PhD application. Important notes to help you understand what the University of Bedfordshire is looking for in an application PhD research proposal.**

## **READ THIS BEFORE STARTING ON YOUR PROPOSAL.**

We are delighted to consider applications for PhD students through the hosted program with our UK partner – the University of Bedfordshire. The PhD Program is a research based program and as such, your application will be assessed primarily on the research proposal you submit at the time of your application. The research proposal forms a central part of the application pack and the core area which the admissions panel within the Research Institutes at the University of Bedfordshire will review and make a decision as to whether to invite you for an interview to present your proposal.

### **Remember! The research proposal is not set in stone**

A good project will evolve over time as you discover more about the topic. It is normal for students to refine their original idea, proposal or title as the project proceeds. As you delve further into the subject you will see different pathways open up.

It is useful to view your proposal as an initial outline rather than a summary of the final product.

## WHAT IS A RESEARCH PROPOSAL?

A research proposal is an outline of your proposed research that is designed to:

- Formulate and define a clear, interesting research question; this may take the form of a hypothesis to be tested, or an open-ended enquiry
- Establish the relevance and value of the proposed research question in the context of current academic thinking, highlighting its originality and significance
- Outline a clear and practical methodology which enables you to answer the research question, and to describe and evaluate any data or source material you will draw upon
- Suggest what you hope to discover at the end of your research and what new areas it might open up
- Provide a provisional timeline of your research

**Applicants should note the University is looking for evidence that the:**

- topic is viable – there is a clear and academically worthy research gap supported by literature and that the research is situated, not generic
- proposal is concise.
- proposal is authentic and the applicant is well versed with what they wrote and able to justify it academically.
- proposal has not been generated using AI. ***Any use of AI in writing will lead to disqualification of your application.***

Your research proposal should indicate that you have the ability to undertake original, high quality academic research.

Your proposal will form the evidence that you will be able to undertake research that will make a contribution to an existing body of knowledge and that can be completed within the required timescale.

Therefore it is expected to see evidence in your proposal that you have researched your ideas, are familiar with, and can critically assess, the pertinent literature, and have considered a methodology to answer your research questions that is appropriate and feasible.

Accordingly, your proposal will be assessed on its quality, originality, and coherence.

It also helps the University of Bedfordshire to decide if your research interests match those of academics in the Research Institute you are applying for and whether or not they would be able to provide suitably qualified and interested supervision for your proposed research.

The research proposal is your starting point to determine if it is worthy to be discussed further at an application assessment interview.

During the application interview, the panel will discuss your proposal with you and make a decision whether to offer you a place in the PhD program or not and therefore you should make all effort to prepare a qualifying proposal. This guide is intended to help you understand what to include in your proposal at the application stage.

If you are accepted as a PhD student, you will have a few months to develop your research into a more concrete research proposal that aligns with the PhD award as a level 8 qualification award therefore your application proposal will be your starting point but it will not be the final research proposal that you are likely to proceed with for your qualification.

Your Director of Studies and supervisory team will work with you and support you to develop your final proposal once you are accepted.

In addition, you will also develop your research skills and be given further training during the PhD student journey in order to develop your research and understand the requirements for each progression point during your PhD journey.

The UK DEGREESMEU team at the Center of International Programs at Middle East University provide free proposal guidance surgeries to explain the requirements of the proposal and how to best meet these requirements. Please make use of this support.

**The purpose of your proposal is to show that you have a relevant theme, a viable project and the competence to carry it out. The information is vital when evaluating your proposed study and to help University of Bedfordshire decide if they have the right staff expertise to supervise you.**

---

## PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

A PhD research proposal should not be more than 4,000 words in length, although it can be as concise as 1,000 words (3-4 pages). We encourage you to think about the clarity about the “why” and about originality rather than a fully developed long proposal. Read and understand the guidance under each proposal heading below more than just writing the heading title. It is important that you also consider and demonstrate how you will access the data and the research design especially if you are looking at the research conducted in your location/country and therefore not in an English speaking context. Consider translation issues, contextual issues, as well as access to the research context and data and make that clear that you have considered this in your proposal.

---

A good PhD proposal will explain clearly (1) what the research aims to achieve and what it is about; (2) why the research is important and in what way it is original or new, and (3) how the research is to be conducted (methodology).

In order to help you with your application, the following headings might be a helpful guide to writing your research proposal:

**Title. A short, indicative title is best.**

**Abstract.** This is a succinct summary of your research proposal that will present a condensed outline, enabling the reader to get a very quick overview of your proposed project, lines of inquiry and possible outcomes. An abstract is often written last, after you have written the proposal and are able to summarise it effectively.

**Background to your proposed research.** Provide a short introduction to your area of interest with a succinct, selective and critical review of the relevant literature. What question(s) do you intend to investigate? (This may be quite imprecise at the application stage); what might be some of the key literatures that might inform the issues (again, indicative at the application stage); and, as precisely as you can, what is the question you are trying to answer? Demonstrate that you understand the theoretical underpinnings and main debates and issues in your research area and how your proposed research will make an original and necessary contribution to this. You need to be convincing that your proposed research will fill a gap in existing knowledge and the importance of filling this gap. This might include a description of the question/debate/phenomenon of interest, and the context(s) and situation in which you think the research will take place; an explanation of why the

---

topic is of interest to you; and an outline of the reasons why the topic should be of interest to research and/ or practice (the 'so what?' question).

**Methodology.** Outline how you plan to conduct the research and the data sources that you will use. How do you think you might go about answering the question? Give some indication why you think this is the best methodology for your proposed study. If you are planning to do empirical work, do please give some indication of what your methods might be: quantitative (surveys, statistical and/or economic models etc) or qualitative (interviews, ethnography etc). You need to be convincing about the appropriateness and feasibility of the approaches you are suggesting, and reflective about problems you might encounter (including ethical and data protection issues) in collecting and analyzing your data. Expected outcomes and impact. How do you think the research might add to existing knowledge; what might it enable organisations or interested parties to do differently? Increasingly in academia PhD students are being asked to consider how their research might contribute to both academic impact and/or economic and societal impact.

**Timetable.** What is your initial estimation of the timetable of the PhD thesis? When will each of the key stages start and finish (refining proposal; literature review; developing research methods; fieldwork; analysis; writing the draft; final submission)?

**Reference list.** Provide a properly referenced list of the sources you have mentioned in your research proposal. This does not have to be comprehensive, but you are illustrating the range of sources you might use in your research.