Appendix

Guidelines for writing "research proposal" for the degree Philosophiae Doctor at Nord University Business School
(Passed April 4, 2000. Revised March 13, 2018 and February 5, 2019)

Requirements of content:
1. The first page with the title, name and affiliation/department.
2. The abstract on its own page.
3. The introduction (approx. 700 words).
   Present the problem complex including definition of central concepts. Argue for choice of research question(s) and specify gaps in existing knowledge and the scientific contribution of the dissertation.
4. The main overview of relevant literature on which your proposed research will be based. A tentative lining-up of research issues and/or hypotheses (approx. 1500 words).
5. Methodological reflections.
   Discuss scientific approaches and consider methodological anchoring including data collection and analysis. If possible/desirable, specify research model with independent and dependent variables, etc. (approx. 1500 words).
6. A discussion of research ethics relevant for the work.
   Include a specification of the type of dissertation, monograph or article-based, with a rationale (cross reference section 10-1 in the regulations, approx. 300 words).
7. The progress plan, budget and financing.
   Specify the doctoral courses completed and planned (cross reference section 8-1 in the regulations). Propose main- and assistant supervisors. (approx. 400 words).

Formal requirements:
1. Application and research proposal training must be submitted within two months after start of the research fellow position.
2. The proposal is to be written in English.
3. The proposal should be approximately 4000-5000 words (double line space, pitch 12). The first page, abstract, reference list and possible attachments/appendices are additional. Footnotes and/or closing notes are permitted. Paragraphs are to be indicated by an indented line (not a page shift).
4. Titles: 1st level: Centred (not bold). 2nd level: Left-adjusted (bold). 3rd level: Left-adjusted (italic, not bold).
5. Choose a reference system (e.g., APA or Harvard) and be consistent when writing the proposal. Consider using Endnote or other reference manager.
   https://www.nord.no/en/library/Pages/default.aspx
6. Figures and tables are, as far as possible, to be presented in the text. The figure number and name are to be placed above the figures concerned, whereas table numbers and names are to be placed below the tables concerned.

Template for writing research proposal at Nord University Business School.

A relatively detailed project description has to be submitted in order to be admitted to the PhD programme at the Nord University Business School. The proposal serves multiple purposes.

- It is an agreement between the student and the supervisors/Business School about the PhD study.
- It shows that the research project is well planned and that it can be accomplished within the project period.
- It serves as a way of preparing for the scientific journey and for getting started with the project.
- It is an 'application in miniature'. Most researchers write several research applications (e.g., to the Research Council) and the proposal is an introduction to this activity.

The project description should be written in cooperation with professors at the Business School and be connected to existing or upcoming research and/or projects. The presentation of the research project shall be about 4000-5000 words, and it must be approved by the intended supervisors. Below is an example of how to organize the project proposal.

(Cover page)

PROJECT TITLE

Name
E-mail address
Mobile number
Date

Nord University Business School,
Department
PhD-programme in business

(Second page)

ABSTRACT
Describe the purpose of the work, its theoretical framework,
methodological approach, the expected contributions.

(Third page)

CONTENT

(Fourth page)

1. INTRODUCTION

Briefly, describe the background for the project. Place the proposed study or research project in scientific context and how it is related to international research of your field. Explain why the current study is of scientific interest. Refer to important theories that can/will be applied and the knowledge gaps you intend to contribute to. End up with the overall research question of your study. You might reflect on the following questions: What do we know about the topic before starting the research? Why is it an important topic? How will this study advance our knowledge within the field?

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Briefly present existing theory relevant to address the overall question of your thesis. Define the central concepts and/or variables, and if relevant, a tentative lining-up of research issues and/or hypotheses. You might call attention (briefly) to each article you intend to write specifying the theoretical framework, research gap and research question of each article.

3. METHODOLOGY

Argue for the scientific orientation of the project, e.g. econometrics, case study, grounded theory, hermeneutics, hypothetic-deductive approach, experiments, type of research design, etc. Provide, if relevant, a description of how the project will be broken down into smaller tasks (e.g., based on the articles).

In brief, describe the data collection methods and sample that will be used. Include a description of other sources too if relevant. Explain how collected data will be analysed.

If the project requires special scientific resources and/or equipment/infrastructure, describe how access to the necessary resources will be obtained.

4. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Discuss briefly the ethical dilemmas that can arise when trying to get access to and collect data. For example, the National Committee for Research Ethics in Social Science and the Humanities (NESH) provides guidelines for research ethics that you might consider. Be aware that ethical issues can be relevant for several stages of the research process. Notice also the role of Norwegian Centre for Research Data (NSD) for approving empirical studies. Examples of issues can be respect for the informants or respondents through ensuring confidentiality and anonymity.

Give a brief statement on how the research project is related to the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDG).

5. THE RESEARCH PROCESS

Describe the research milieu you belong to (e.g., department, research group), the intended supervisor(s), dissertation format, plan for attending courses and the articles you intend to write. Finally, you must outline the progress plan of your project. (see example of tables below).

Course code	Course title, Institution	ECTS/credits	Semester
xx	Philosophy of science and ethics, Nord Uni.	7,5	Fall <year>
xx	Method course xx, NHH	7,5	Spring <year>
xx	Theoretical course xx, NTNU	5	Spring <year>
xx	Theoretical course yy, CBS	7,5	Fall <year>
xx	Theoretical course zz, Nord Uni.	7,5	Fall <year>
xx	Data analyses, Nord Uni.	5	Spring <year>
TOTAL		**40**	

Table: Overview of PhD courses.

Although it might be difficult to emphasise the upcoming publications, we urge you to reflect about this at an early stage. You might indicate the working titles although we expect them to change as your PhD study progresses. The table below illustrates an overview:

	Authors	Year	Title	Journal
Paper I	Author 1, Author 2, Author 3	xxxx		
Paper II	Author 1, Author 2	xxxx		
Paper III	Author 1	xxxx		
Paper IV	Author 1, Author 2	xxxx		

Table: Overview of expected articles published.

Example of a progress plan is presented below:

Semester	Activity
1	- Working on research proposal - Research proposal approved - Methodology course xx - Philosophy of Science and Research Ethics (part 1)
2	- Theoretical course xx - Philosophy of Science and Research Ethics (part 2) - Attending research conference in xx - Theoretical review - Methodological issues - Philosophy of science and research ethics issues - Preparing data collection 1
3	- Data collection 1 - Analysing data - Writing paper 1 - Preparing data collection 2
4	- Data collection 2 - Analysing data - Writing paper 2 - Attending research conference
5	- Theoretical course yy - Writing paper 3
6	- Attending research conference - Writing paper 4
7	- Finishing paper 4 - Writing up the dissertation
8	- Writing up the dissertation - Submission of the PhD dissertation - Defence

Table: The progress plan of the study.

6. BUDGET AND FINANCING

Describe a preliminary budget and a funding plan for the PhD study, for example in a table (see below). It should not be very detailed, but rather an indication of operating costs in broad categories. If additional funding is required to carry out the planned research, describe how funding for these activities will be obtained.

Costs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Data collection	20.000		30.000	
Travel expenses	20.000	10.000	10.000	10.000
Other costs	20.000		10.000	
Total costs	60.000	10.000	50.000	10.000
Funding	**Year 1**	**Year 2**	**Year 3**	**Year 4**
Research Council	40.000		20.000	
Business School	20.000	10.000	20.000	10.000
Project x			10.000	
Total	60.000	10.000	50.000	10.000

Table: Budget and financing plan.

(new page)

REFERENCES

List all the references of the proposal only. We suggest you use Endnote or other reference manager. Then the reference list will appear automatically. If you do this manually, be consistent (e.g., following APA or Harvard).