# Proposal Template for PhD Applicants

**Name & proposed project title**

**Rationale**
A short paragraph describing the topic and stating why it is important and relevant to field of study

**Research questions**
Two or three specific research questions you will answer, no more (these questions should not be able to be answered with a ‘yes’ or ‘no’).

**Preliminary Literature review**
A summary of existing research in the area, identifying the gaps your project will fill. Project ought to be original rather than repeating previous studies.

**Theoretical framework**
The conceptual underpinnings of your thesis – theories and theorists that will inform your work; how you will operationalize these theories and concepts; and how theoretical framework will guide data collection, analysis and interpretation.

**Methodology**
A description of your methodology and methods in very precise terms:
- Your broad methodological approach and epistemological framework
- Your methods
You should show here that you are conversant with the methodological literature and that you have thought through your study in detail. Of course, your methodology will evolve during the course of your project and it is always possible to change it – but it is useful to start out from a strong basis.

**Ethics**
If you are doing any research on human subjects you will undergo a rigorous ethics process during the end of your first year, so it is helpful to do some reading on research ethics now and identify any potential issues and how you will address them in this section of the proposal.

**Timeline**
A description of how you will break your research into manageable tasks and deadlines in order to get your PhD finished within the time you have. It is best to present this in the form of a table, specifying particular dates by which you will have completed particular tasks. Again, this timeline may change but it is useful to have done some planning in advance.

**Relationship to my work**
Please explain how the specific area you would like to study relates to the work I have done.