

Delft School of Design [DSD]
Delft University of Technology _ Faculty of Architecture

DSD Research Proposal Guidelines

Please refer to the DSD website: www.delftshoolofdesign.eu for complete application submissions information and/or write to dsd-bk@tudelft.nl if you have questions not answered on the website.

Research Proposals should include the following:

I. Title : This will naturally be provisional – the nature of the title is simply to introduce others, in the most general way, to the project thematic or concept.

II. Theme : Two or three lines that function like an architectural sketch – meaning that you communicate the general disposition of the research but do not yet explain in specificity the issues that the research will ultimately address, resolve, or seek to illuminate.

III. Motivating Question(s): The thesis questions are used to express the primary motivations behind your research. Carefully formulated questions should clearly and succinctly introduce the aims and ambitions of your research.

IV. Summary of research: Presents the primary findings of your current research with regard to the scholarly works and intellectual discourses you have thus far engaged with. These summaries will exhibit your grasp of the arguments presented by others as well as exhibit the specific aspects of relevant resource material in relation to point V below.

V. Research *problématique*: By the term *problématique* – we understand a set of inter-related conditions that are at once facilitating and limiting. Louis Althusser described the *problématique* as “...the particular unity of a theoretical formation”; and Michel Foucault connected ‘problematizations’ to the history of thought itself, describing this as the “...development of a domain of acts, practices and thoughts.”

The *problématique* offers critical insight into the position which you have so far taken with your thesis. Furthermore, we consider this category as one of the defining factors that separates a Master level proposal from a Doctoral level proposal.

VI. Disciplinary Approach: A statement which introduces the manner in which you approach your research subject (or object); and this from a view towards the disciplinary (or cross/ or inter/ or trans-disciplinary) situated-ness in which you believe your research to belong.

VII. Research significance: This puts forward an explanation of why it is that you believe this research is relevant and original. It can also include a comment as to whom you believe to be your primary audience.

VIII. Bibliography: The bibliography is critical: please indicate in some manner which works have been engaged and those which have not.

IX. Addendum: This can include anything you find relevant to advancing a clear picture of yourself as a potential PhD candidate – an example might be a published text.

Please Note: The information provided with this document does not meet full requirements for application to pursue a PhD with the DSD program.