DOCTORAL THESIS RESEARCH PROPOSAL
Department of Statistics
Faculty of Science

The University PhD Statute 2003 (Reg 5 a ii) requires that during provisional registration (i.e. first year) a candidate complete a fully developed research proposal, including a provisional thesis title, a schedule of research, an outline of thesis structure and a statement of the resources required to complete the research. The research proposal should be submitted for approval to the Postgraduate Committee of the Department of Statistics. This should be done as soon as possible, but before the end of the provisional year at the latest. The Committee may accept the proposal, or indicate to the candidate and supervisor(s) changes needed and request a resubmission, or it may decline to accept the proposal. It will inform the Director of the School/Head of Department of its decision.

PhD candidates should note that the proposal should be a significant document (5-10 pages). It should be enough to establish that the thesis is appropriate for a PhD and that he/she seems capable of completing in good time.

The proposal should include:

Provisional Thesis Title

Names of Supervisors/Advisors

Objectives / Aims:
Clearly specify the purpose of this research. Include the main research questions and hypotheses.

Contribution of the proposed research:
Briefly describe and evaluate the existing literature. In what ways will your contribution be significant and original?

Methodology:
Briefly outline the processes, techniques and methodologies or the theoretical approach that will be used to achieve the objectives above.

Proposed thesis structure:
Outline the proposed structure of the thesis

Schedule / Timeline of Research:
Outline the proposed schedule or timeline for this research including completion dates for each stage. Outline work already completed or in progress to date.

Ethical Approvals:
Is ethics approval required? If so, has it been applied for or obtained?

Resources:
What resources are needed? Are all these resources currently available and do you have access to them? If not, how they are to be procured?