

research proposal form

Please note that candidates are expected to submit a copy of this form as part of their application.

This proposal will be reviewed by the relevant Higher Degrees Tutor and other members of academic staff. Assessors will wish to gain a clear understanding of your proposed research topic and existing knowledge. A key factor in assessing the suitability of each project proposal is whether the necessary supervisory expertise and capacity exists.

It is recognised that, when this research proposal becomes a research plan (following a successful application), both research questions and methods may change.

Please submit this form as part of your application. Those who do not may be asked to resubmit. If you have chosen a creative practice project, please ensure that the relationship between the creative artefact and the contextualising work is clearly defined throughout.

Section 1 – to be completed by candidates

**Name:**

**Have you discussed your proposal with a BSU academic? If so, please provide their full name?:**

**Do you have an idea of who you would like to have on your supervisory team? Please mention names where possible.**

**Section 2 – to be completed by candidates**

**Provisional title of thesis:**

*This should be kept simple, expressing the topic area that interests you*

**Aim or major research question:**

*(70 words max) – The ‘aim’ expresses the overarching goal of the research, though this can be written as a major research question if you prefer.*

**Objectives of proposed research or subsidiary research questions:**

*(300 words max) - The objectives represent a breakdown of the Aim into a number of areas of investigation that can be tackled by the application of explicit methods. These can often be expressed more easily as subsidiary questions.*

**Methodology:**

*(300 words max) – Briefly state the kinds of research you plan to undertake (e.g. audience survey, interviews, archive research, creative practice). We will be able to relate this to staff expertise.*

**Researcher context:**

*(300 words max) – Please explain how and why you have come to this research, why it interests you and what motivates that interest. How does it relate to what you have done (training, publications, work, practice, interests etc.? How will this help your career?*

**Case for research:**

*(1000 words max) – Drawing upon your reading and knowledge of the field, make a case to justify your project, characterising it as original knowledge. How will your research add to knowledge? What has already been done? Please reference in the Harvard style (author name, year of publication, pages: e.g. Matthews 2003: 5-9)*

**Bibliography:**

*(300 words max) – List those works you have read which have informed your knowledge of this topic.*

**Briefly, explain specifically why you wish to undertake a research degree with Bath Spa University:**

**Further information:**

*This space is for any further information you may wish to add.*

Section 3 – to be completed by distance learners only

**What resources/data will you need to investigate the thesis topic, and how do you plan to access them?**

**What, for you, would be the special challenges of studying for a PhD by Distance Learning, and how do you plan to meet them?**