

Proposal Guidelines

The proposal should include the following components:

Background and relevance: explain the significance of the research and what new knowledge will be generated as a result of the project.

- Describe the context and key background information about the issues and research sites being explored.

Research problem and research questions:

- What are the project's objectives and aims?
- What is the research problem?
- What are the specific research questions you want to answer?
- How is your research relevant to the Arab region?

Literature Review and Theoretical Framework: This section should include an evaluation of previous research on the subject, current gaps in the literature, and contribution of the proposed research. The literature review should demonstrate the applicant's knowledge of regional and international research on the subject.

- Present a critical review of the literature on the subject and identify its contribution with reference to basic paradigms, theories and different approaches.
- Identify gaps in previous studies.
- Situate the proposed research within the relevant literature and its contribution to the debate on the subject
- Situate the proposed research in its broader theoretical and conceptual context and define the theory, paradigm, or conceptual framework that helps the researcher answer the research question.
- Fully document the sources of quotations and references.

Methodology: This section should explain the methodology and detailed steps for carrying out the research over the duration of the project.

- Research methodology and implementation: What is the rationale behind adopting this methodology? How will the proposed methodology help answer the research questions?
- Tools and methods used to answer the research question.
- Clearly justify the use of the methods and tools. For example, why did you decide to use quantitative analysis over qualitative? Or why do you combine qualitative and quantitative methods?
- Describe your sample and research location and justify your choice.
- Specify how you will access primary and secondary sources. Identify the proposed techniques of analysis and the different phases of the research, including transcription (in

qualitative studies), writing, preparation of dissemination activities and preparation of manuscripts for publication.

- For field data collection, the researcher's prospects for obtaining necessary permits or permissions should be addressed. For secondary analysis, sources of information or data and their accessibility to the investigators should also be identified in the proposal.

Ethical Challenges and Considerations: Your proposal should include a section on the ethical considerations you are planning to follow in your research.

- What ethical measures are taken? For example, what provisions will be made for the protection of research participants, consenting method, participant privacy and data confidentiality, withdrawal policies, the do-no-harm approach and protection of vulnerable individuals?
- What are the ethical challenges and problems that you expect to encounter over the duration of the project?
- How are you going to deal with these ethical challenges during and post-field work (for example, during the dissemination phase).
- Discuss the ethical issues in conformity with the ethical guidelines of your discipline. We advise you to read the [ACSS guidelines on research ethics](#).

Proposals that do not include a section on ethics will not be reviewed by the selection committee.