

Model for developing a dual PhD proposal

Leiden University Dual PhD Centre

I. General

- This document contains a model to develop a dual dissertation proposal. Use the headings depicted below for your own proposal. Please use page numbers.
- This model can also be helpful in the early stages of the PhD track. Of course, in this case, the document can only be partially filled out and several items will remain blank.
- Describe your current ideas as briefly and concisely as you can. At this early stage, your ideas may not have fully developed yet. Dual PhD candidates often find that research questions from professional practice are not easily linked to an academic field and/or supervisor. In due course, this can be further developed in close collaboration between the candidate and the Centre.
- The proposal can be submitted in Dutch or in English.
- The research proposal may not exceed 3000 words.
- The PhD proposal should be submitted to Dr Johannes Tromp, director of the Dual PhD Centre, via email: dualphd@fgga.leidenuniv.nl.
- During the development stage of your research proposal you can request an orientation meeting with a staff member of the Dual PhD Centre. You will need to provide at least several pages of your initial idea or a short sketch of your research proposal, your CV and a sample of your earlier academic work (see section III, Appendices).

II. Dual PhD proposal

1. Personal information dual PhD candidate

Name, address, telephone, email, academic qualifications.

2. Date of submission

3. Employer

Name, address, function, terms of employment.

4. Title of research project

State the (working) title of the research project here. What are the key words that you will use to describe your proposal?

5. Abstract

Provide a brief abstract of the research proposal (+/- 250 words).

6. Introduction

Motivation and relevance of the proposal considered from the current state of professional practice and/or field, and/or literature:

- What topic are you studying in which context? [context & immediate cause]
- What is the problem? [researchable problem statement]
- What is your main research question? [research question(s) and research goals]

- What difference do you think your research will make [relevance]?

7. Theoretic foundation

Summary of relevant literature on which the research is based:

- What is known regarding the research question? How does your work link to the work of others in the same or related fields? [literature review]
- What is not known regarding your research question? [gaps that will be filled]
- What are your ideas regarding the unknown? [expectations/hypotheses to be tested]

8. Research methodology

The research methodology used to answer the main research question(s) and to test the hypotheses.

9. Schedule

Planning of the research in time, taking into account interaction with professional practice, available time from work, and available private time, per PhD track phase (see the website for a description of the three phases).

10. Supervisor (optional)

Provide suggestions for one or more potential supervisor(s).

11. Bibliography

Literature references in accordance with an academic standard (such as APA, Harvard Referencing System, etc.).

III. Appendices

• Curriculum Vitae

• Sample of your academic writing

A previous essay, paper or thesis, which provides the best insight into your capabilities.

IV. Useful literature for designing a research proposal

- Bryman, A. (2012). *Social research methods*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Creswell, J.W. (2009). *Research design. Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches*. Los Angeles: Sage.
- King, G., Keohane, R.O. & Verba, S. (1994). *Designing social inquiry. Scientific inference in qualitative research*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press.
- Start early with data management planning. Read more on the library website of Leiden: <https://www.library.universiteitleiden.nl/research-and-publishing/datamanagement>.