

# MODEL FOR DEVELOPING A DUAL PHD PROPOSAL

## 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 Magliano-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. (Working) title of research project

What are the key words that you will use to describe your proposal?

### 5. Abstract

Provide a brief summary of the research proposal.

### 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. Theoretical 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 address the main research question(s) and to test the hypotheses:

- How are you planning on investigating your ideas regarding the unknown?
- Will you use existing theories/methods/approaches, or develop new ones?

## 9. Schedule and budget overview (if applicable)

Taking into account the available time from work and available private time:

- What would be the main stages of your project?
- What would you be expecting to do in each year of your PhD?

## 10. Supervisor (optional)

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

## 11. Bibliography

Literature references in accordance with an academic standard:

- What work of others have you read and used throughout your proposal?
- What kind of reference style (APA, Harvard, etc.) is most often used in your subject area?

Software for publishing and managing bibliographies, such as Endnote, can be very helpful.

## III. Appendices

- Curriculum Vitae
- Sample of academic writing (previously written paper or thesis, that shows your academic capabilities).

## IV. Some (literature) suggestions

- Booth, A., Papaioannou, D., and Sutton, A. (2012). *Systematic approaches to a successful literature review*. London: Sage Publications.
- Bryman, A. (2012). *Social research methods*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Cars model of John Swales for writing introductions.
- 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>.