**Research Proposal**

**Master of Laws** [indicate here: Research Paper; Mini Thesis; or LLM by Research]

Name:

Student Number:

Provisional Title:

Supervisor:

Date:

**Keywords**: *[List between 5 and 10 keywords for the proposed research]*

**Abstract**: *[Write the abstract last! When you have finished drafting the proposal. An abstract isn’t always necessary but can be useful]*

*[NB:- Make sure that your proposal complies with the Faculty* ***Referencing and Style Guide*** *in terms of headings, quotations, referencing, etc.; see also the additional resources, including the* ***Basic rules of manuscript language*** *on the Masters@Work iKamva site for guidance on writing a proposal and on academic writing more generally – and ensuring your sentences and paragraphs are accurate and concise]*

*[Your research proposal provides the structure and direction for your research paper/ dissertation and therefore must be well thought out – you must have read broadly and understand the area of concern that your research will investigate; and you must be able to explain your research aims (outcomes) and the steps that you will take to achieve these aims]*

**Table of Contents**

*[This is NOT ‘cast in stone’, nor is this a ‘template’ that must include all of these elements – you need to consider the most appropriate structure for your proposal, depending on your proposed research, and keeping in mind that your proposal should reflect the following: (1) a clear problem statement and an indication of the significance of the problem; (2) an argument towards an answer/solution to the problem; (3) a literature survey (that is the basis for the argument – the argument ‘builds on’ the literature survey; (5) a description/outline of how the argument will be substantiated in the dissertation; (6) the method used; and any definitional issues (if any) are clarified; and (7) a Bibliography of materials used.]*

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[2. RESEARCH QUESTION [or this could be a PROBLEM STATEMENT] 2](#_Toc187958106)

[3. METHODOLOGY 2](#_Toc187958107)

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*[See* [*https://etd.uwc.ac.za/handle/11394/6*](https://etd.uwc.ac.za/handle/11394/6) *- for a repository of LLM (and LLD) dissertations submitted to the Faculty of Law – you may want to browse previous dissertations to see how previous students have structured their dissertations etc.]*

# INTRODUCTION

*[This could also be / or include background on the topic and introduction to the area of concern – indicating the broader context for the ‘gap’ or ‘challenge’ and the significance of the problem]*

# RESEARCH QUESTION

[or this could be a PROBLEM STATEMENT]

*[What is specific challenge / the scholarly question(s) that will be interrogated in the dissertation] Often = a question & sub-questions*

(Avoid ‘yes/no’ questions)

# METHODOLOGY

*How the argument/approach proposed will be substantiated in the dissertation; and the method to be used] The methodology explains the overall strategy to address the research objectives.*

# LITERATURE REVIEW

*[An overview and brief discussion of existing body of literature relevant to the topic – the literature that explains the problem with a view to locating gaps / and literature explaining the theoretical underpinning of the argument that will be made; the literature review is a discussion of secondary sources / existing research which serves as the foundation / identifies the gaps for the proposed research) and is not a description of the legal framework ]*

# CHAPTER OUTLINE AND A TIMELINE FOR SUBMISSION OF CHAPTERS

*[This must logically flow from the problem statement and approach/methodology sections of the proposal – with a very brief indication of chapter structure – and logical flow/linkages between the chapters] [ALSO provide a proposed timeline for submission of chapters]*

# CONCLUSION

*[It’s not always necessary to have a conclusion, but you may want to summarise or mention limitations etc]*

# PROVISIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY