

**MIREES – MASTER’S IN INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AND
STUDIES ON EASTERN EUROPE**

MA THESIS PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

Student’s Name

e-mail address

date

THESIS PROPOSAL:

Title.....

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Please summarize in two to three paragraphs your thesis proposal. Include all key aspects that you have elaborated upon: topic, problem, objectives, literature, research questions, methods, and relevance of your study.

1. THE TOPIC / PROBLEM

2. LITERATURE REVIEW: PREVIOUS WORK ON THE TOPIC

The literature review should explain how your research topic is related to significant literature and current trends in your field. What has been written about this topic before? What have you read and by whom? What are the existing relevant debates, theories and findings? What are the key ideas, theories, concepts, and findings in the current literature on that topic, and those specific problems? The literature review should demonstrate that you are aware of relevant research in your field of study.

3. THEORETICAL CONCERNS / SITUATING THE STUDY IN THE FIELD

Here, you should position your study in relation to the reviewed literature. Also, here you should state your basic ideas about the topic. What has been overlooked in the existing studies and theories in relation to the topic and the research problem of interest to you? Are there any new factors, ideas, problems, concepts, etc. that you think should be considered and added to the debate?

4. RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND THE WORKING HYPOTHESIS

Questions:

Working Hypothesis:

5. METHODOLOGY

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6. POSSIBLE OBSTACLES

7. RELEVANCE OF YOUR STUDY

8. TENTATIVE THESIS CHAPTER OUTLINE

What is the planned outline of your thesis? Please explain what sections your thesis will have, and what will be addressed in those sections. Follow this basic structure:

9. RESEARCH PLAN / TIMETABLE

The research plan / timetable is your plan of action. It can be formatted as a list or a table of concrete tasks / activities and deadlines. It should clearly state when will you start and complete key aspects of your thesis research such as literature review, fieldwork, drafting each chapter (shown separately in your plan), attending workshops or conferences, consultations, producing preliminary versions of the thesis, and submitting the final thesis paper.

***Note:** Please respect the deadlines for the MA Thesis (which define a general time plan for you and your Supervisor) – which will be sent separately.*

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Please list in alphabetical order the literature and sources you have used for producing this thesis proposal. This is not going to be a comprehensive list that you will use for writing your actual thesis.