

## Guidelines for writing a research Proposal

### 1. EUSA\_ID applicants for degree seeking PhD studies in Europe

To enter a PhD programme as a degree seeking applicant at one of the European EUSA\_ID partner institutions (mobility period of 36 months) you are required to submit a full research proposal of **max 5 pages**.

While we do not insist on a particular format, we encourage applicants to keep the following aspects in mind:

- The proposal should begin by **explaining the subject area** in which the research is to be located, and providing an indication of the key theoretical, policy or empirical debates it plans to address.
- The proposal should then present a **brief initial review of the literature** you plan to contribute to in conducting your own research. You should demonstrate a familiarity with the relevant academic literature and theories relating to your research proposal, and an awareness of the major lines of argument that have been developed in your chosen research field.
- You should then discuss the **research questions you plan to address**. Importantly, you need to demonstrate the manner in which your research questions emanate from: gaps in the existing theoretical or empirical literature; from the application of a particular theory in a specific context it has not been applied before; or from a synthesis of a number of bodies of literature, for example. **It is important to remember that the principal criterion for the award of a PhD is that the submission constitutes *an original contribution to knowledge*.** Having established the field of inquiry and what is 'known' about your topic already, you need to demonstrate how your thesis will add something original and significant to the field.
- Most PhD-theses at the PhD IDS include an empirical part. Depending on the nature of your subject, it is desirable to give some **(preliminary) indication of the empirical research methods** relating to data collection and data analysis that will be used to conduct the research.

### 2. EUSA\_ID applicants for PhD mobility periods in Europe / South Africa

South African or European PhD candidates who wish to apply for a mobility period between 10 – 24 months at one of the European or South African EUSA\_ID partner institutions are required to submit a research proposal of **max 5 pages** for the respective period.

- The proposal should respect the suggested **general structure for full research proposals** above to give an overview about the PhD project in progress.
- The overview should be followed by a summary of the **current status** of the ongoing PhD project.



- You should further include a **work plan** for the intended mobility period in which you explain what parts of your research project you are planning to work on during the period abroad.
- Finally, as a **European PhD candidate** who wishes to apply for a mobility period between 10 – 24 months at one of the South African EUSA\_ID partner institutions you should in addition suggest areas in which you would like to engage in **co-teaching and/or co-supervision** at the South African partner university.