

COMPILING A RESEARCH PLAN

The recommended length of the research plan is 5 pages excluding the references. The research plan is made under the guidance of the supervisor(s) and her/his acceptance is required. The writing of a research plan is not a formality, but a high quality plan is fundamental and a necessary part of the scientific post graduate studies aiming at the doctoral degree. The research plan should cover the thesis project altogether. Instructions regarding the different parts of the research plan are listed below.

- 1. Literature review** (i.e. background of the research, key problems in the current knowledge of the research field in question)
 - Literature review should be clear and thorough enough
 - Literature review should link the research project to the problematic issues of the research area
 - Literature review is not only a list of earlier studies, but a synthesis and interpretation of the current knowledge

- 2. Research objectives and hypothesis** (i.e. what you are going to study and why, the individualized aims of the subprojects)
 - Objectives are more often described too broadly than too narrowly
 - Objectives should be defined and described clearly
 - The sub-projects should be linked together
 - Whenever possible, aim at clear hypotheses

- 3. Research implementation** (i.e. the general description of methods, the general features of the experiments, experimental animals, the scale of the patient data, statistical analyses [e.g. randomization, reliability, sample sizes], expected problems and alternative solutions)
 - The chosen methods should be reasoned
 - The description of the methods should be precise
 - The description of the methods should include the principles behind them, not only technical details
 - The patient data should be described with sufficient details
 - A description of statistical analysis should be included
 - The ethical principles of the research should be explained (e. g. if a statement of ethical committee is needed, permission to perform studies with experimental animals)
 - The use of experimental animals should be described and justified with sufficient details

- 4. Significance of the research** (a description of anticipated results and/or achievements, the new knowledge this study may produce, medical/odontological and scientific significance)
 - the relevance of the anticipated results should be discussed

- 5. Time schedule** (i.e. the current state of the project, further research, an estimation when the dissertation will be ready)
 - A clear and realistic description of the current state of the project
 - Precise description of the further studies
 - A realistic timetable

- 6. Nature of co-operation**
 - If known that the dissertation will be comprised of the joint publications of several authors, the role of the doctoral candidate should be described
 - The role of the doctoral candidate should be described with particular precision, if the same publication will be used as a part of more than one doctoral thesis,
 - A description of the supervisors' role

7. **Financing plan** (including a short report of the total funding of the research group, if relevant)

8. **References** (key literature of the field)

- The reference list should be inclusive and versatile