

**DOCTORAL PROGRAMME OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES  
GUIDELINES FOR COMPILING A RESEARCH PLAN**

A research plan must be attached to all applications for doctoral studies (i.e. fixed-term doctoral candidate position and study right for a doctoral degree). The research plan is a key document in the evaluation process of the applications. The research plan must not exceed 6 pages (A4, spacing 1, font 12, including list of references).

Notice that applications are reviewed by multidisciplinary panel.

**A research plan must include the following components:**

**1. Abstract**

- Name of author, title of research project
- Max one page long
- Includes the key elements of the dissertation project: main research question, implementation (data, methods, theoretical framework) and contribution of the project to applicant's field of science. Notice especially writing the abstract that review panel is multidisciplinary.

**2. Introduction of research setting**

- Presentation of the research topic, main research question and the objectives of the research
- Short literature review
- Presentation of theoretical framework and background, key concepts and presentation of the hypotheses to be tested (if applicable)
- Significance of the research: contribution (i.e. new knowledge) of the project to the field of science
- Expected results

**3. Research methods, data sets, schedule and supervision**

- Presentation of research methods, data and the methods of acquiring the data. If the project is a study combining several subprojects, a presentation of the methods and data of each project is required.
- Presentation of potential ethical issues related to the data (e.g. ethics of procedures, consent of research subjects, ensuring the anonymity of research subjects, need and applying for research permission)
- Timetable of the research
- Commitment of the supervisors to the project

**4. Research project's link to career plan of the applicant**

- How the dissertation project will proceed applicant's career after the defence