

11.4.2011

Dnro 5/0/11

Faculty of Law

## Research Plan for a Doctoral Dissertation

A research plan is written for an expert in Law, who will evaluate the scientific merits and feasibility of the applicant's project. The objective of the research plan is to prove that the project proposed by a postgraduate student is scholarly interesting, meaningful and feasible and that the student in question has the necessary abilities to carry it through.

The maximum length of a research plan is 4 000 words, not counting sources and references.

In addition, the research plan should include an abstract (300 words at most) that explains in brief the background, goals, methods and expected results of the research project.

The research plan consists of the following sections:

0. **Headline:** This section includes the working title of the dissertation and the name of its supervisor. It should also state how much time has already been spent on the project as well as include an estimation of the overall project timeframe.
1. **Background of the research:** In this section, the dissertation project is positioned within the wider research context. The section should also include a brief overview of previous research on the topic.
2. **Objectives:** This section explains the starting points and research questions of the project and defines its scientific objectives.
3. **Methods:** The methodological basis of the project, as well as the opportunities and risks it entails, are explored in this section. This section should also chart the research material and possible ethical issues that might arise from its use.
4. **Timetable:** This section outlines a timetable for the research project and its various phases.
5. **Results:** This section discusses the possible results of the study, the meaning of these results and the plans for their publication. Those whose dissertation takes the form of a compilation of articles will at this point provide a plan detailing the contents, publication routes and schedules of the articles.
6. **Literature:** This section includes a list of the most important references used in designing the research plan.



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