# Research Design and Methodology (IRL3595)

# Fall 2023

## Research Proposal Guidelines

As part of course assessment students are required to submit a research proposal, which is worth 20 points of the final grade for this course.

Students should pick a subject and topic on their own sometime in the middle of semester. Topics must be discussed and approved by the instructor. It is up to student to decide on the subject and research topic. I would recommend choosing a subject that a student is familiar with. Consult course’s lecture slides and course book regarding topic selection guidance. Ideally I would expect students to pick topics from such disciplines as political science, economics, international relations, journalism, etc. Topics should be timely and controversial. These may be from Kazakhstan or abroad.

Final proposals must be submitted by – **4 December**. Only submission in Moodle are accepted where they will be checked by TurnItIn.

You can upload your proposal **only** once. Email submissions are NOT accepted. Late submissions will be penalized by 5 points deduction per each hour late.

Research proposals should demonstrate your ability to (in no particular order):

* pick a topic
* narrow it down to a researchable title
* depending on the chosen research design, formulate a research question
* write a purpose statement
* introduce research methodology
* discuss significance of research problem
* reference and quote various sources
* discuss any ethical considerations

Proposals must be well structured and organized, follow academic tone and genre, and be free from any grammatical, spelling, and stylistical errors. Be careful with use/abuse of technical language and jargon. Referencing should be based on APA writing style.

In addition, proposals should be 1500 words (+- 10%). I would advise you to use Times New Roman font, size 12 and 1.5 line interval. Pages should have 2.5 cm margins. No need for a KIMEP cover page. Indicate the word count.

As I mentioned in class when writing a proposal, imagine you are either applying for MA/PhD program or applying for grant/scholarship or any other type of funding. Be realistic in your statements (i.e. do not say you will do things which you *cannot* do in real life).

Practice reading good and bad examples of proposals online. See what works and what does not. Consult our course textbooks. Make sure your proposal reads well and explains concepts clearly.

Feel free to show me your drafts for comments.

**Proposal Presentations**

After you finish your proposal, you will have a chance to show off your research project and receive class feedback. These presentations are graded 10 points on the following criteria:

* punctuality: start and finish on time
* clarity in the use of concepts, terminology and theories
* ability to tackle questions from the audience
* practicality and feasibility of your research
* quality of presentation: appearance, motivation, etc.

Presentations will be held in class during the last week. Signup sheet will be provided. Schedule a total of 7 minutes and reserve 2 minutes for Q&A. Visual aids such as PPT slides are welcome, but optional. I would advise you to rehearse your presentation beforehand.

For clarifications or any other questions contact me directly.

Good luck!