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| **RESEARCH OUTLINE** | | |
| This research outline is intended for use by individuals who have expressed an interest in applying for registration in a Masters by Thesis or Doctoral degree in Psychology at Rhodes University. Part of the registration process involves departmental consideration. This outline provides some guidance as to what is being looked for in a preliminary research proposal at the stage of applying for departmental consideration.  Please note that this research outline is asking you for your thinking at this initial stage. If the department supports your application to register for a Masters by Thesis or PhD degree in Psychology then you will work with a research supervisor to develop a more detailed and comprehensive research proposal which will be reviewed by departmental and faculty review committees in your first year of registration.  In order to apply for departmental consideration, the research outline must be submitted along with the following documents:  1. Application for departmental consideration form  2. Supervisors declaration of interest form (submitted by supervisor; student to ensure this happens)  3. Academic transcripts  These documents must be submitted to the MBT and PhD coordinator **VIA YOUR PROPOSED SUPERVISOR**. Submission deadlines may apply, please refer to details provided on the departmental website. The proposed supervisor’s declaration of interest form must be completed by the proposed supervisor and submitted by her/him directly with the other 3 documents (your application, your research outline and your academic transcript) to the coordinator.  Any query about the research outline and/or the process of applying to do a Master’s by Thesis or PhD in Psychology at Rhodes University should be directed to the Masters by Thesis and PhD coordinator (for 2017 this is Jan Knoetze ([j.knoetze@ru.ac.za](mailto:j.knoetze@ru.ac.za)).  **Your research outline may not exceed five pages, including the reference list.** | | |
| 1. **Personal Details** | | |
| Date | This must be the date on which you submit your documents for departmental consideration (including this research outline). | |
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| Last name |  | |
| First names | In full | |
| Preferred name | The name you like to be called | |
|  | | |
| Proposed degree | | Masters by Thesis (MbT) or PhD |
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| Contact details | | Phone: Including dialing code |
| Email: |
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| Proposed supervisor | | This must be the name of a staff member in the department of psychology who has indicated that they are interested in supervising you. This same staff member must sign and submit a supervisor’s declaration of interest form. |
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| 1. **Central focus** | | |
| What is the topic you wish to investigate in your research? What is the central question or thesis you wish to address? Sketch this in a few sentences, indicating why it is a worthwhile question to pursue. | | |
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| 1. **Context** | | |
| Provide a brief overview of the general area of study within which your proposed research falls, including stating who will be your key scholarly dialogue partners. This is an important part of the research outline as it allows you to demonstrate your familiarity with the relevant field as well as your ability to communicate clearly and concisely. | | |
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| 1. **Key research questions** | | |
| List key research questions (about 3 to 4) which arise from your central focus. In other words, break down your central question or issue into specific, focused questions which may form the basis for your research and might lead to chapters or sections of your thesis. | | |
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| 1. **Research methods** | | |
| What will be the key method(s) you will use to address your topic and research questions? Why is/are these the most appropriate method(s) for your topic and questions? Provide details of your method(s), e.g. if you plan to conduct interviews, who will you interview? How many interviews will you conduct? Will there be problems of access? This section should also explain how you are going to analyse your research findings. | | |
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| 1. **Significance** | | |
| In one or two paragraphs, sketch the contribution you hope your work will make to the specific topic and the relevant wider field of study. | | |
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| 1. **Reference list** | | |
| References must be in APA 6th. | | |

Please note that applications for departmental consideration are tabled at departmental Research Proposal and Ethics Review Committee (RPERC) meetings. The dates for these meetings are set in advance and advertised on the departmental website. Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered.