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| **Business School England in partnership with Edge Hill University**  **Research Collaboration** |
| **Research Proposal Template** |
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| **1. Title:** (30 words max)  **Please provide a preliminary, descriptive title for the proposed investigation** |
| **2. Abstract** (150 words max)  An abstract outlining the design of the research should be provided. |
| **3. Aims, objectives and rationale** (800 words max)  **Please list the Aims, Objectives and context of the proposed investigation.** You may wish to articulate your aims as a list of key questions that you intend to answer. Please also provide details regarding the original contribution of your research to an existing body of knowledge.That is how your research will draw on and relate to previous research and/or literature in this area, what aspects you consider this research and/or literature fails to cover and how your proposed investigation will create new knowledge by filling those gaps and adding to the literature**.** |
| **4. Research Design and Methods (including bibliography of sources)** (1500 words max including bibliography)  **Please provide a detailed description of the methods that will be used in the proposed investigation by addressing each of the points below which are applicable to your research. Please also provide an argument for the appropriateness of using particular techniques (e.g. relevance, feasibility, availability of data) where appropriate.**  Please address all of the following as applicable to your particular research project:   1. Study design; 2. Theoretical or epistemological framework(s); 3. Sampling frame(s) selection criteria and sample size(s) for primary and secondary data (where relevant); 4. Research instruments, measurement techniques and data collection tools (where relevant); 5. Data storage, management, archiving and disposal (including compliance with Data Protection legislation, where relevant); 6. Data analysis, synthesis and interpretation (including the specific approaches and analytical tools to be used – where relevant).   Please cite relevant literature in support of any methodological decisions made. |
| **5. Timeframe** (300 words max)  **Please provide a draft timetable for the proposed investigation in a three year period, including any progress you have made since your enrolment, with reference to: periods of background reading; pilot studies; data collection; fieldwork; data analysis; and thesis preparation.** |
| **6. Ethical consideration** (300 words max)  **Details of the primary ethical issues raised by the design of the research, along with a discussion of how those issues might best be addressed**.  You should prepare your submission for ethical approval while working on your research proposal, with the aim of submitting your application for ethical approval as soon as possible after submission of the proposal. For details of the procedure for gaining ethical approval you should seek advice from your supervisor. Successful registration of your project is subject to appropriate ethical approval and no primary research can be conducted until such approval has been gained. |
| **7. Resources & facilities** (250 words max)  **Please provide details of any practical issues including resources or facilities required for the proposed investigation (including funding, materials, and equipment); where and by whom these will be provided (i.e. which institution(s) and whether in the UK or overseas) and any health and safety issues.** (300 words max) |
| **8. Significance of the Study** (300 words max)  **Please provide evidence of some degree of awareness of conceptual issues relevant to the research: a central differentiating feature between doctoral level work and research at lower levels is the emphasis on conceptual matters at doctoral level.**  A clear statement of the proposed contribution to knowledge that will be made by the  Work. While we would expect your proficiency with conceptual matters to develop during the course of doctoral study, being able to show some familiarity with conceptual issues relevant to your proposed project provides some advantage at the point of application. |