

PLEASE DO NOT JUST WRITE THE PROPOSAL AS PART OF THE APPLICATION FORM. THERE IS NOT ENOUGH SPACE FOR THE QUALITY OF PROPOSAL WE REQUIRE

Information to include in your Proposal

Thank you for your interest in studying for a research degree in the School of Law at the University of Leeds. The subject and quality of your research proposal is a very important part of the application process. We ask you to identify your research questions before you approach us. The PhD is your work and must be something that interests you, which is why we do not give out research topics for you to apply to.

As the proposal is only part of the information we use to determine if an offer can be made we ask you to complete the full application rather than just sending the proposal to ask if we will supervise the project.

Finding the right supervisor for your research is very important. This is something that we do as we have more information about subject areas of expertise and availability to take on a new student.

Research Areas:

Information about the general research areas covered by our staff can be found at the link below. You can also find information about specific staff at the second link below.

<http://www.law.leeds.ac.uk/research/>

<http://www.law.leeds.ac.uk/about/staff/>

In order that we can assess your application and deal with it speedily please submit a proposal which includes the following information. It is easier if you provide the proposal in 'word' format. The word limit you will read about on the application form applies only if you include your proposal in the application form. While you may wish (although this is not compulsory) to include a summary on the application form, the level of detail we ask you to include means we also advise you to send a separate document outlining your proposal and addressing the points below. There is no word limit for this. It is important that you provide as full a proposal as you can.

- A working title for the project.
- The background to the research. A brief outline of the origins of your ideas; the context; the main legal and/or policy issues; and relevant literature.
- A brief statement outlining why you wish to study this topic.
- A brief outline of what you think is original about your proposed research and what you anticipate will be the contribution that it will make (this is one of the criteria on which PhDs are examined).
- A clear statement of the aims and objectives or research questions you intend to focus upon.
- A brief outline of the theoretical framework that will drive your research. This may be a broad statement at this stage.
- An outline of your proposed methodology including details of your general methodological approach, the particular sources of information and data; fieldwork methods, methods of analysis, issues of access and so on that you will follow.
- An outline of any problems or difficulties you can foresee in carrying out your research such as gaining access to the research environment or receiving clearance from an ethics committee – such issues may involve delays or prohibit progress. It would also be useful to outline how you might seek to resolve the problems, for example, factoring in extra time, or pursuing an alternative course of enquiry.
- A bibliography of relevant and current literature.

NB: We check all research proposals through Turnitin to check the originality of your words.