CHAPTER 4
THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL
Purpose of the Research Proposal

- To present the question to be researched and its importance
- To discuss the research efforts of others who have worked on related questions
- To suggest the data necessary for solving the question
The Research Sponsor

All research has a sponsor in one form or another:

- In a corporate setting, management sponsors research
- In an academic environment, the student is responsible to the class instructor
What are the Benefits of the Proposal to a Researcher?

- Allows the researcher to plan and review the project’s steps
- Serves as a guide throughout the investigation
- Forces time and budget estimates
Research Proposal Format

- Every University has developed a bit different format for research proposal
- Please study very seriously on the university guideline on how to develop research proposal
Common Research Proposal

- Detailed outline of procedures associated with a particular methodology
  - Problem Definition
  - Research Objectives
  - Literature Reviews
  - Research hypotheses/ questions
  - Methodology
    - population, sample, sampling procedure, data collection, data analysis,
  - Expected outcomes
Evaluating the Research Proposal

- Proposal must be neatly written in appropriate writing style
- Major topics should be easily found and logically organized
- Proposal must meet specific guidelines set by the sponsor
- Technical writing style must be clearly understood and explained
Chapter 1 -- The Proposal

To repeat, your proposal, when approved by your advisor, becomes chapter 1 of the research paper.

Chapter 1 is the blueprint for what will be included in the remaining chapters. Like a good blueprint for a building that is to be constructed, chapter 1 will contain a brief but detailed guide to everything that will be included in the paper.
Research Proposal

Topic:
1. Background of the study
2. A statement of the general problem
3. Objectives
4. Main questions of the study
5. Methodology
6. Scope and Limitation of the Research
7. Definitions
8. Expected Results
9. Overview of Remaining Chapters: To illustrate what is contained here, the following example is given:
   Chapter 2:
   Chapter 3:
   Chapter 4:
   Chapter 5
What your Thesis or Research report looks like?
Topic: 
xxxxxxxxx
Chapter 1 -- Introduction

1.1. Background of the study
1.2. A statement of the general problem
1.3. Objectives
1.4. Main questions of the study
1.5. Methodology
1.6. Scope and Limitation of the Research
1.7. Definitions
1.8. Expected Results

1.9. Overview of Remaining Chapters: To illustrate what is contained here, the following example is given:

Chapter 2: Literature review
Chapter 3: Research Methodology
Chapter 4: Findings and Discussions
Chapter 5: Summary, Conclusions, and Recommendations
Chapter 2: Literature review

2.1.
2.2.
2.3.
2.4.
2.5

e tc ...........

*at least 15 to 20 percent of the total pages of the thesis (approx. 15 to 20 pages)*
Chapter 3: Research Methodology

3.1. Research methodology used
3.2. Research and sampling procedures
3.3. Research instruments/questionnaires
3.4. Collection of data/gathering procedures
3.5. Statistical treatment of data
Chapter 4: Presentation of Data and Discussion of Results

4.1. Background of respondents

4.2. Answer objective #1

4.2. Answer objective #2

4.3. Answer objective #3

4.4. Answer objective #4
Chapter 5: Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations for Application

5.1. Summary of findings

5.2. Conclusions

(based on findings what do you think about your studied topic and objectives)

5.3. Recommendations and application of the study

What to do to improve the situation (studied objectives) and how to do it?
Appendixes

Annex 1: Questionnaires
Annex 2: Profile of the company/organization
Annex 3: Map
Annex 4: Statistic
etc
Part of Thesis Chapters (con’t)

This chapter must answer to your research objectives.
The purpose of chapter 1 is to introduce the reader to what is being studied, and how it will be investigated. It contains:

- **Background of the study**
- **A statement of the general problem** investigated. A statement of why and to whom the problem is important
- **The objective (purpose)** of this particular study
- **The main question of the study.** An enumeration of the component questions, or, if it is a quantitative study, the hypotheses that the researcher will answer in order to answer the main question of the study
Part of Thesis Chapters (con’t)

- **Methodology**, which tells the reader briefly what research procedures, will be used to answer the main questions or to test the hypotheses.

- **Scope and Limitation of the Research**: Under the statement of the problem, above, the researcher tells his reader what he will investigate. Here, he sets forth what was not investigated (things relevant but for stated reasons intentionally excluded).

- **Definitions**: *Operationally* define terms that appear in the Main Question, and in the component questions or hypotheses.

- **Expected Results**: Based upon the findings of previous studies that have been performed, it was expected that.

- **Overview of Remaining Chapters**: To illustrate what is contained here, the following example is given:
Chapter 2, Review of Related Literature, offered a historical perspective of the problem, current knowledge related to the problem, and information that related specifically to each of the component questions posed.

Chapter 3, Methodology, described how the sample was selected, how the questionnaire that was utilized was constructed and validated, and how the data was gathered and analyzed.

Chapter 4, Findings, presented the results, which corresponded to each component question of the study.

Chapter 5, Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations, provided a summary of the study, conclusions based upon the findings, and recommendations based upon the conclusions of the study.
How to write objective (Just an example)

- to study
- to identify
- to review
- to analyze
- to evaluate
- to explore
- to compare
- to investigate
- to understand
- to seek
- to find out
- to examine
- to .....
The proposal is usually approximately five to ten double-spaced pages long.

Write the proposal in the past tense, as if the study had already been completed (e.g., this study examined rather than this study will examine). Since the proposal becomes chapter 1, when approved, and since the paper is written in the past tense, it will save you having to rewrite the proposal (in past tense form) after your proposal has been approved.

Further, write the paper in the third person (e.g., the author of this paper investigated. Rather than I investigated).
Look at the Undergraduate Thesis Handbook developed by MRC of the Cambodian Mekong University
Part of Thesis Chapters

Chapter 1: Introduction
1.1. Generalities of the study
1.2. Thesis statement or Statement of the problem
1.3. Research objectives
1.4. Scope and limitation of the research
1.5. Expectation
1.6. Definition of the terms used
1.7. Chapter outline
Part of Thesis Chapters (con’t)

Chapter 2: Review of Related Literature and Studies
Part of Thesis Chapters (con’t)

Chapter 3: Research Methodology
3.1. Research methodology used
3.2. Research and sampling procedures
3.3. Research instruments/questionnaires
3.4. Collection of data/gathering procedures
3.5. Statistical treatment of data
Chapter 4: Presentation of Data and Discussion of Results

This chapter must answer to your research objectives.
Part of Thesis Chapters (con’t)

Chapter 5: Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations for Application

5.1. Summary of findings

5.2. Conclusions

5.3. Recommendations and application of the study
DETAILED EXPLANATION OF EACH CHAPTER
Part of Thesis Chapters

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1. Generalities of the study

- Global context
- National context
- Local context
- Overview/history of the organization
Chapter 1: Introduction

1.2. Statement of the problem

- Research must have explanatory basis
- Summary of conceptual of the research topic
- It calls for a specific questions based on objectives
- It must be stated in question from interrogative sentences or statements
Part of Thesis Chapters (con’t)

Chapter 2: Review of Related Literature and Studies
Part of Thesis Chapters (con’t)

Chapter 3: Research Methodology
3.1. Research methodology used
3.2. Research and sampling procedures
3.3. Research instruments/questionnaires
3.4. Collection of data/gathering procedures
3.5. Statistical treatment of data
Chapter 4: Presentation of Data and Discussion of Results

This chapter must answer to your research objectives.
Part of Thesis Chapters (con’t)

Chapter 5: Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations for Application

5.1. Summary of findings

5.2. Conclusions

5.3. Recommendations and application of the study
# Table of Contents for a Thesis/Project Proposal

## I Introduction

## II The problem
- A. Rationale, significance, or need for the study
- B. Theoretical framework for the proposed study
- C. Statement of the problem
- D. Elements, hypotheses, theories, or research questions to be investigated
- E. Delimitations and limitations of the study
- F. Definition of terms
- G. Summary

## III Review of the literature
- A. Historical overview of the theory and research literature
- B. The theory and research literature specific to the T/P topic
- C. Research in cognate areas relevant to the T/P topic
- D. Critique of the validity of appropriate theory and research literature
- E. Summary of what is known and unknown about the thesis/project topic
- F. The contribution this study will make to the literature

## IV Research Procedures
- A. Research methodology
- B. Specific procedures
- C. Research population or sample
- D. Instrumentation
- E. Pilot study
- F. Data collection
- G. Treatment of the data
- H. Summary

## Appendices
- Appendix A, B,… (as needed)

## Bibliography
Group Discussion

- Form a group of 4 members
- Prepare a research proposal
- Present your research proposal to your teacher