

WRITING SYNOPSIS FOR POST-GRADUATES

Components of a Synopsis

The following components should be provided in a synopsis of Post Graduate research project.

1. Title Page or Page 1:

There should be the following information on the first page of the synopsis.

- I. Title:
- II. Name of the Student
- III. Name of the Supervisor
- IV. Place of work

A title page of the synopsis should include title of the research project, name of the student (with qualifications), name of the supervisor(s), place of work and date (month and year) of submission.

2. Topic

The topic for research should be selected carefully. It should be specific and worded to show the nature of work involved as far as possible.

3. Introduction

It should provide a brief description to introduce the area of the proposed research work.

- Why your project is important
- Where is it used? Applications
- What you will talk about
- Problems and shortcomings of their work
- How your work is different and better?

- **Objectives**

- Broad objectives as visualized to be achieved should be clearly outlined and these should be itemized. These objectives will indicate the major aspects of the study to be undertaken.

- **Operational definition:**

- It is definition of a term specifically telling how it will be measured Examples:

Efficacy: These can be measured:

- i. Time taken in relief of symptoms which may be pain, fever, cough, heartburn etc.
- ii. Taking into account number of side effects.
- iii. Time taken for complete recovery

Student is requirement to specify how he/she will measure efficacy.

- **Hypothesis:**

- A hypothesis is a statement showing expected relation between 2 variables. A hypothesis is needed in the following study designs:
- All interventional studies
- Cohort
- Case Control
- Comparative Cross Sectional

4. Review of Literature

- What other people had to say on this topic(s) (be sure to cite your references, and quotes as appropriate)
- What other people did on this topic or related topics?
- Students must study at least 10 original research papers before writing of synopsis

5. Materials and Methods

A plan of work describing the various aspects of the study in a logical sequence along with the methodologies to be employed, are the most important aspects of any research plan.

Study design: Mention the name of the appropriate study design.

Setting: name and place where the research work is to be conducted.

Duration of study: how long will the study take with dates?

Sample size: how many patients will be included. If there are groups, how many per group?

Sampling technique: type of sampling technique employed.

Sample selection:

Inclusion criteria: on what basis will patients be inducted in the study?

Exclusion criteria: on what basis will patients be excluded from the study?

Data collection procedure: a detailed account of how the researcher will perform research; how he/she will measure the variable.

It includes:

- Identification of the study variables
- Methods for collection of data
- Data collection tools (proforma/questionnaire)

Data analysis procedure: relevant details naming software to be used, which descriptive statistics and which test of significance if and when required, specifying variables where it will be applied.

Outcome & utilization:

Describe in which way the expected results of your study can be useful in designing and delivery of health care system:

6. Place of Work and Facilities Available

In order to complete the proposed research some specialized facilities may be required. Therefore, it is important to identify the place where the research work will be undertaken and whether the resources and facilities required for doing the research are available.

7. References

- Synopsis should contain at the end a list of references. All references in the text must be cited in and at the end must be in Vancouver style and number of citations should not be less than fifteen (15) out of which 5 references must be from books. References should include a number of books, list of articles published in research Journals.
- References should be fresh, both national & international preferably of 05 years' duration. If fresh references are not available, the old up to 20 years can be stated
- Webpage do not count; Wikipedia is not appropriate.
- Cite the papers / Books that you used.

Citation in text:

- A number is allocated to a source in the order in which it is cited in the text. If the source is referred to again, the same number is used.
- Use Arabic numerals (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9)

References at the end:

- In Vancouver style

Examples:

Journal: Author AA, Author BB, Author CC, Author DD. Title of article. Abbreviated title of journal. Date of publication YYYY month; volume number (issue number): page numbers.

- Petitti DB, Crooks VC, Buckwalter JG, Chiu V. Blood pressure levels before dementia. Arch Neurol. 2005 Jan;62(1):112-6.

Book: Author AA. Title of book. # edition [if not first]. Place of Publication: Publisher; Year of publication. Page number.

- Carlson BM. Human embryology and developmental biology. 4th ed. St. Louis: Mosby; 2009. 541 p.

It will be difficult to define an overall length for a synopsis for Post Graduates in such different fields of study. Whereas it should be concise as far as possible and avoid repetitions, it should also provide sufficient details on the various aspects mentioned above to show that the research involved has been well understood and planned, and it is of an acceptable academic merit. The total length of a synopsis may run from 1,500 to a few thousand words.

Data collection instrument:

The researcher must attach, as an annex, the performa or questionnaire with the help of which he/she intends to collect data. The performa/questionnaire must match the objectives and must not contain irrelevant sections like inclusion and exclusion criteria etc.

Additional requirement

- 1: Font Shape:** Times New Roman
- 2: Font Size:**
Main heading: 14 bold and underline
1st subheading: 12 Bold
2nd subheading: 12 Bold and Italic
Font of Text: 12 Normal
- 3: Line Spacing:** 1.5
- 4: Paragraph Spacing:** 0
- 5: Character Spacing:** Normal
- 6: Volume of Synopsis:** at least 1000 words

Research supervisors are requested to make sure that the synopsis submitted by their

research students follow the format of writing the synopsis.

6: Margins:

At least 3.17-3.81cm on the left-hand side, 2 -2.54cm at the top and bottom of the page, and 1.27 - 1.90cm at the outer edge. The best position for the page number is at top-center.

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