

# Guide to Preparing an Initial Research Proposal for Conditional Enrolment

## Postgraduate Studies

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

## CONDITIONAL ENROLMENT

When you apply to enrol in a doctoral programme at the University of Waikato, your application should be supported by an initial research proposal. The research proposal forms the basis of the research project and the subsequent work leading up to the preparation of the thesis. During your first six months of conditional enrolment you will be required to develop this initial proposal into a full research proposal which will be considered with your application for confirmed enrolment.

## PREPARING AN INITIAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL

At this point, it is necessary to use only broad terms to describe the intended area of research. Nevertheless, it is desirable that the aims and methods of the research be clearly worked out between supervisor and candidate before work commences.

Initial research proposals submitted to the Postgraduate Studies Committee for conditional enrolment consideration should normally contain the following;

1. A working title for the thesis.
2. A clear and concise outline of the topic or research question, and the proposed aims or objectives of the study.
3. A brief description of the research methodology and, if appropriate, the theoretical framework.
4. An indication of the theoretical and research traditions which inform the project.
5. A timetable outlining the proposed stages of work, through to completion.
6. A statement identifying any ethical issues raised by the research.
7. An indication of the resources required (e.g. library, computing, laboratory equipment).

A number of departments have particular requirements relating to the format of research proposals, so you are advised to check with the relevant department before preparing your proposal.