

## **KILAW GUIDELINE ON HOW TO WRITE A MASTER THESIS PROPOSAL**

The drafting of the thesis proposal is the first important step in successfully writing a master thesis. All students planning to complete their Master's Thesis in KILAW need to submit their thesis research proposal for approval.

Before writing the thesis proposal, students are required to contact their potential supervisor(s) to make sure that the proposed topic is suitable for a Master Thesis in KILAW.

The thesis proposal should demonstrate the student's ability to identify a relevant research topic and demonstrate how the proposed topic will be examined in a clear and methodological manner.

The research proposal provides a brief description of the intended research, including the title, the main research question (hypothesis), research questions (objectives), originality of the research, methodology, structure, and references.<sup>1</sup>

Each section should be answered thoughtfully and concisely, demonstrating understanding of the research process and preparedness for this scholarly endeavor.

**NOTE: The thesis proposal must be reviewed and signed by the supervisor(s) before being submitted for approval.**

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<sup>1</sup> For additional information on how to write a master thesis proposal see: • Marci Hoffman, Mary Rumsey, International and Foreign Legal Research, A Coursebook, 2nd Edition, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2012. • Mary Renck Jalongo, Olivia N. Saracho, Writing for Publication, Springer 2016. • Robin C. A. White, Writing a Research Paper, University of Leicester School of Law. • د. عثمان الخضري، راجع كتاب "الكتابة العلمية للرسائل الجامعية" دار آفاق للنشر 2021.

## **1. Title (Arabic and English):**

The title should be precise and informative. It should capture the research focus of the thesis and, when possible, hint at the methodology or theoretical framework.

**NOTE: Ensure that both versions in Arabic and English language convey the same meaning.**

## **2. Brief Summary of Main Research Question (Hypothesis):**

The main research question is the central question(hypothesis) your thesis is addressing. The main research question serves as the guiding framework and sets the direction of the thesis.

**NOTE: the main research question (hypothesis) is the cornerstone of your thesis and should be identified in a clear and concise manner.**

## **3. Specific Research Questions (Objectives):**

Clearly state the research questions your research will address in order to address the main research question (hypothesis).

Break down your main research question into specific, manageable objectives or sub-questions.

**NOTE: the specific research questions help structure your research into focused sections. Therefore, they should be clearly identified.**

#### **4. Originality of the Topic:**

Clearly articulate what makes your research unique by stating the scientific and social relevance of the proposed topic and providing information on how the research contributes to the specific area under examination.

Provide information if the topic is already covered in literature and identify possible gaps your work addresses, new perspectives you bring, or novel methodologies you employ.

**NOTE: the thesis must be an original work, not the result of plagiarism, fabrication, or falsification. The thesis must be written in full compliance with general rules of academic honesty and integrity.**

#### **5. Research Methodology:**

The methodology presents the method (the way, procedure, and technique used) to address the main research question.

In the proposal, identify the relevant method(s) to be used in writing your thesis and how they will be applied.

For example, whether the thesis will use the following method(s): legal, comparative, historical, empirical, case study, conducting surveys, interviews, quantitative, qualitative, etc.

**NOTE: briefly justify why these methods are suitable for your research questions and objectives. For example, the thesis uses the comparative method to examine the similarities and differences between two legal systems.**

## 6. Research Structure:

Provide a blueprint of your thesis structure by providing the research structure (content) of the thesis. The structure should mirror a draft table of contents.

**NOTE: The research structure should include chapter titles with headings and sub-headings for each chapter it will cover.**

## 7. References:

Compile a preliminary list of primary and secondary sources that should be further enhanced while writing the thesis.

**The primary sources** are the sources that focus on the law itself. They may include national law sources (constitution, laws, etc) and international law sources (treaties, customs, etc).

**The secondary sources** are not the law. They explain, analyze, discuss, and critique the law. They may include books, articles, commentaries, encyclopedias, dictionaries, reports, websites, newspaper articles etc.

**NOTE: Ensure the references are relevant to your topic and adhere to the appropriate academic citation standards.**