Master of Arts (Research on Islands and Small States) Research Proposal Template and Guidelines

1. Proposed Title of dissertation (max 20 words)
(Enter text here)

2. Name of student
(Enter text here)

3. Name of proposed supervisor/s (if known, otherwise leave blank)
(Enter text here)

4. Introduction
   4.1. Objective of the proposed dissertation (max 400 words)
   (Enter text here)

5. Literature Review
   5.1. Brief description of the subject matter of the dissertation (max 500 words)
   (Enter text here)

   5.2. Why the subject is of interest, including research gaps (max 500 words)
   (Enter text here)

6. Methodology
   6.1. The hypothesis and/or the research questions to be answered (max 200 words)
   (Enter text here)

   6.2. The methodological approach, and the research tools, adopted for the research (max 600 words)
   (Enter text here)

7. **The expected contribution and/or policy implications (max 500 words)**

(Enter text here)

8. **The layout of the proposed dissertation (max 200 words)**

(Enter text here)

An example of the layout

Chapter 1: Introduction stating the objective of the dissertation, the research hypothesis or questions and brief description of the methodology, including the layout of the dissertation

Chapter 2: Background (this is an optional chapter, and need only be included if the subject matter is not well understood)

Chapter 3: Literature review relating to the main themes covered by the dissertation

Chapter 4: Detailed description of the methodology to be used to obtain the results

Chapter 5: Presentation of the results and a discussion on these results including limitations

Chapter 6: Conclusion referring to the significance of the results, policy implications and recommendations for further research.

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9. **Bibliography**

(Enter text here)

Guidelines for the research proposal

The full text of the research proposal should not exceed the 5,000 words, and should contain the following:

- **Introduction**. Explaining broadly the 'problem' that you are researching, the main issues both from an academic and policy point of view surrounding these issues, the disciplinary background you intend to embrace for your research, an idea of the contribution of your research, and how the assignment is structured.

- **Literature review**. Summary of the state of affairs on your topic, including key definitions and any gap that you are trying to address in your research.

- **Proposed methodology**. Including hypothesis and/or research questions and the specific research tools that you intend to use to answer to your research question or test the hypothesis.

- **Contribution**. Expected to be provided to academia and/or policy

- **Bibliography.** The referencing style to be adopted is American Psychological Association (APA). The publications cited are to be listed in the references section at the end of the dissertation, in alphabetical order of the authors' surnames. Do not divide the list of references into many sections, such as, books, articles, etc. List all publications together, as this makes it easier to trace the author of the cited publication.
Guideline about APA referencing style is available here:

http://student.ucol.ac.nz/library/onlineresources/Documents/APA_Guide_2017.pdf