



Here are the expected documents and content required for the respective research presentations with effect from Semester I, 2024/2025 (October 2024).

A. PROPOSAL DEFENCE

Proposal document:

- **Master of Arts (Linguistics): Not more than 7000 words (content)**
- **PhD: Not more than 10,000 words (content)**

Proposal document should contain:

- Title page, abstract and keywords
- Research contextualisation:
 - Background, problem statement, aim, research objectives/research questions, research motivation and operational definitions of key terms/concepts
- Literature review
 - Demonstrate familiarity with research topic/area
 - Review key works by leading/recent research; identify gaps
 - Show critical issues raised in a wide range of scholarly literature
- Methodology
 - Justify appropriate/feasible methodology and tools (For PhD, methodology robustness expected)
 - Justify data choice; explain collection method and data processing
 - For PhD, demonstrate research originality (see notes on the next page)

B. CONFIRMATION DEFENCE (fast-track PhD candidate only)

- **Proposal document/raw chapters of not more than 12,000 words**
- Content is similar to the proposal document but add preliminary analysis and postulated early findings
- Demonstrate ability to articulate and undertake complex/robust PhD research

C. CANDIDATURE DEFENCE

- Submit available **chapter drafts (no word limit)**

Expected content:

- Title page, contents page, abstract and keywords
- Introductory chapter
 - Background, problem statement, aim, research objectives/research questions, research motivation and operational definitions of key terms/concepts.
- Literature review chapter
 - Demonstrate familiarity with research topic/area
 - Show critical issues raised in a wide range of scholarly literature
 - Review key works by leading research; identify gaps
- Methodology chapter
 - Demonstrate robust methodology and appropriate research tools/instruments used; clear and concise operationalisation of key terms/concepts

- Provide evidence of ethics clearance from UMREC/UMMC-MREC and any local/regional permission (if required)
- Analytical chapter(s)
 - Analysis:
 - At least 60% of the analysis completed for a qualitative study or 100% for a quantitative study; a mixed-method approach should have the quantitative part completed and partial completion of the qualitative aspect.
 - Generally, the **raw analyses are substantial enough to confidently answer the main research questions.**
 - Clearly explain key findings and how they were derived with reference to the presented literature.
 - **Coherently bring key findings together to answer the overall thesis proposition.**
 - Postulate contributions/significance of study.
 - Acknowledge the limitations of the study.
 - For PhD, the research outcome(s) must demonstrate novelty or original contributions.

What entails **originality** in research (Phillips and Pugh, 2005)?

Provide an original technique, observation or result by demonstrating one or more of the following:

- Continuing a previously original piece of work
- Applying a particular technique to a new subject
- Carrying out empirical work not done before (including in the socio/cultural/economic/political context under study)
- Developing new evidence in relation to an old issue
- Interpreting known material in a new way
- Developing a synthesis that is new to the field
- Developing a new methodology to investigate an existing research problem
- Developing a cross-disciplinary approach to a disciplinary problem
- Investigating areas that people in the discipline have not explored before
- Offering a new framework or extension of existing knowledge as part of the research outcome.

DOCUMENT SUBMISSION:

- Look for the submission link in the monthly email from the Higher Degree Office.
- Complete the application form (<https://tinyurl.com/FormFLL>); form must be signed by the supervisor(s). Forging or signing on behalf of a supervisor is considered a disciplinary offence.
- Upload:
 - **Signed application form**
Rename file as "matric number_master/phd_PD/CD/SEMINAR_form"
e.g. S111111_master_PD_form; S222222_phd_PD_form
 - **Defence documents; for PhD Thesis Seminar, upload the abstract only**
Rename file as "matric number_master/phd_PD/CD/SEMINAR_report"
e.g. S111111_master_PD_report; S222222_phd_PD_report
 - **Turnitin report (less than 10%) – content only**
Rename file as "matric number_master/phd_PD/CD_turnitin"
e.g. S111111_master_PD_turnitin; S222222_phd_PD_turnitin
 - **Turnitin information:** <https://umlibguides.um.edu.my/c.php?g=710432&p=6797710>
If you need Turnitin help, please use the chatbot (Seri) on the library website during office hours.

Contact ddfl_pgrad@um.edu.my if you have any questions.