

Global College Malta

DBA Research proposals

Your research proposal is a key part of your DBA journey with the College. It tells your thesis supervisors about the question(s) you want to answer through your research. It is a chance for you to show your knowledge of the subject area and tell us about the methods you want to use.

When you write your DBA thesis proposal you should bear in mind that in your text you need to constantly think about how your thesis is intended to:

- be original or significant;
- develop or challenge current knowledge of in your chosen subject area; and,
- how you can exemplify the importance of your research.

What is a Thesis Proposal?

A DBA thesis proposal is a document that outlines the thesis topic, defines the issues that the thesis will address, and explains why in the view of the DBA student why the topic warrants further research. It should clearly identify a problem and provide a proposed solution to that problem.

Proposals should generally include the following:

1. A brief introduction, which will define the DBA thesis topic and the general intent of the project, what it is hoped the project will accomplish, and justification for considering the project a legitimate endeavour.
2. A detailed literature review that outlines the most relevant readings and theories which pertain to the chosen thesis topic.
3. A methodology section, which includes the research questions, hypotheses, participants, materials, and procedures.
4. A bibliography or reference list. Most of the sources should be from peer reviewed articles or books. As with other academic papers, the use of internet sources should be limited.

For DBA students conducting more theoretical or comparative analyses, the structure could take the form of chapters that define and specify each concept, and a concluding chapter that brings all of these ideas together.

The length of a DBA thesis proposal should be some 5,000 to 6,000 words excluding references and any appendices.

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