

**National University-Sudan
Faculty of Graduate Studies and Scientific Research**



Guidelines for Writing Research Proposals and Theses



(a) Guidelines for Writing for Writing a Thesis Research Proposal

Targeted degree

- M.Sc.
- Ph.D.

Title

- Concise and expressive

Name and qualifications of student

- Name
- Former degrees obtained:
- B.Sc. () Place and year
- M.Sc. () Place and year
- Ph.D. () Place and year

Introduction

- Nature of the problem
- Concise review of relevant literature
- Justify the research proposal by identifying gaps in related knowledge
- State research hypothesis and/or questions

Objectives

- General objectives
- Specific objectives

Materials and methods

- Describe what will be done and how it will be done:
- Test the set hypothesis and answer the research questions
- Show how to achieve the set objective(s)
- Describe the materials and methods to be used
- Experimental design
- Data collection and analysis

Expected output

- Describe the hope to achieve and the expected new contribution to knowledge

Time schedule

- Time frame for steps and tasks to be done

Facilities required

- Equipment
- Materials
- Chemicals
- Others

References

- List all references mentioned in the proposal document

(b) Guidelines for Writing Theses or Dissertations

General Layout of Theses and Dissertations:

Generally there are two plans for the layout of theses and dissertations

Plan (A)

1. **Preliminaries comprising:** Title page
Declaration
Dedication (optional)
Abstract
Acknowledgement
Table of contents
List of tables
List of figures
List of plates
2. **Introduction**
3. **Literature Review**
4. **Materials and Methods**
5. **Results**
6. **Discussion**
7. **Conclusions and Recommendations (if needed)**
8. **References**
9. **Appendices (if any)**

Plan (B)

1. **Preliminaries comprising:** Title page
Declaration
Dedication (optional)
Abstract
Acknowledgement
Table of contents
List of tables
List of figures
List of plates
2. **General Introduction including literature review**
3. **Section one including:** Title

Introduction
Materials and Methods
Results
Discussion

- 4. Section two (same as section one)**
- 5. Section Three (same as section one)**
- 6. General Discussion**
- 7. General Conclusions and Recommendations (if needed)**
- 8. References**
- 9. Appendices (if any)**

(c) Guidelines for Writing Various Parts of a Thesis or a Dissertation

The Preliminaries

Title page consists of:

Title of thesis or dissertation in capital
Full name of author and qualifications
A thesis or a dissertation submitted to the National University-Sudan in fulfillment or in partial fulfillment of (name of the degree)
Name and title of supervisor (and co-supervisor if any)
Name of Faculty
Month and year of submission of thesis or dissertation

Declaration

Signed declaration stating that the thesis or the dissertation has not been submitted to obtain a degree from any other university (example: I declare that the subject matter presented in this Thesis / Dissertation is original and has only been submitted to the National University-Sudan to obtain (name of degree).

Table of Contents

Page numbers of the preliminaries in Roman numerals (I,II,III,IV)
Text pages, starting with the Introduction, in Arabic numerals (1,2,3...)
Pages before the table of contents (title page, dedication) without numbers

Abstract

Not to exceed 500 words
Includes brief reports on the objective(s), materials and methods, main results and principal conclusion(s)
Should not include references, tables or figures
Medical Sciences use structured abstracts including (Background, Design, Setting, Objective(s), Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, conclusion(s))

Dedication and Acknowledgements

Words of thanks to those who helped in accomplishing the research (supervisor, co-supervisor, funders, advisers, technical assistance providers... etc)

Lists of Tables, Figures and Plates

Each should include: A number and a caption (Title)
A page number

Introduction

Define the nature and importance of the problem studied

Give a justification (s) of the study

Terminate the introduction by stating the objective(s) of the study

Literature Review

Give an extensive and up to date review of works previously done on the subject matter of the problem under study.

Cite literature in the text by Harvard System (Author and Date) or by number (Alphabet-Number System or Sequence System).

Materials and Methods

Give in past tense a full description of:

What was done and how it was done

Tools used

In case of experiments indicate site (s), date(s) and design(s)

Results

Describe in past tense what was found.

Present data in tables or figures or both.

Do not present same data in tables and in figures.

Tables, figures and plates should be self explanatory.

Each table, figure or plate should have a number and a concise and indicative title.

Refer to tables, figures and plates by their assigned numbers and not by their positions (Table: below, above or following).

Discussion

Interpret (explain) results obtained and compare them with those reported in the literature on the same problem

Give brief conclusions at the end of the discussion or under a separate heading.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions: Briefly and concisely summarizes the main outcome of the study

Recommendations: Give in points the most important recommendations of the study

Do not state speculative and imaginary recommendations

References

(a) Include mainly published references

(b) All references cited in the text

(c) Names of authors and years of publication should be as same as in the text

(c) Should not include personal communications

Styles of listing references either: (a) Harvard System: Name-System
(b) Alphabet-number System
(c) Vancouver System (Citation-sequence System)

All references cited in the text should appear in the references list and vice versa

Spelling of name of authors and years of publications must be same in the text and the list.

Sample Title Page

**Association of Serum Prostatic Specific Antigen Ratio, Lipoproteins,
Testosterone, Estradiol and C-Reactive Protein with Prostatic Tumors
Diagnosed by Histopathology**

By

Osman Mohammed Mahdi AbdElgadir

**B. Sc. (Honors) MLS Chemical Pathology: National University-Sudan
(2010)**

**M. Sc. MLS Chemical Pathology: National University-Sudan
(2016)**

**A thesis Submitted to the National University-Sudan for fulfillment of the Requirements of
Ph. D in Medical Laboratory Sciences: Chemical Pathology**

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**Faculty of Medical Laboratory Sciences
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