



# Research Aims & Objectives

# To Do List for FYP 1

- Identify Project Title and Supervisor
- Prepare Brief Project Description
  - ✓ Title, Supervisor, Basic Skill Requirements, Problem Statement, Objectives, project outcome, & Description of the project (Max 2 pages)
- Prepare Full Research Proposal
- Introduction
- Background Study/Literature Review
- Methodology/Requirement Analysis & Design
- Exhibition & Presentation
- Paper

# Project/Research Title



- It should be **concise** and **descriptive**
- Consideration:
  - Is there are recognized need for the research in the area?
  - Is the research achievable within allocated time?
  - Does the topic match the student's capabilities and interest?
  - Are project facilities and/or data available to the student to undertake all necessary research in the topic area?

## Tips on coming up with a good research title

- List the most important factors to be studied, as well as methodology/treatments to be used
- Categorize the words that can be grouped (e.g. bipartite matching, traveling salesman, quick sort and binary search can be grouped as algorithms)
- Compose the words to form a clear, eye-catching title
- Review for grammar and improve some of the words without changing its meaning/message

# Guidelines in making the Title

- Do not include too much information in the title
- Avoid using unnecessary words (effects, evaluation, study, experiment, trials, observations, results, test, factors, analysis, etc.)
- Title can be expressed in terms of scope of the results

# Aims:

- are **broad statements** of desired outcomes, or the **general intentions** of the research, which 'paint the picture' of your research proposal
- emphasize **WHAT is to be accomplished, NOT HOW** it is to be accomplished
- address the **LONG TERM** project outcomes, i.e. they should reflect the aspirations and expectations of the research topic
- do not need to be numbered
- Once aims have been established, the next task is to formulate the objectives.

# Objectives:

- are the **STEPS** you are going to take to **ANSWER YOUR RESEARCH QUESTIONS** or a specific **LIST OF TASKS** needed to accomplish the goals of the project
- emphasize **HOW AIMS** are to be accomplished
- must be **HIGHLY FOCUSED** and feasible
- address the more **IMMEDIATE PROJECT OUTCOMES**
- are usually numbered so that each objective reads as an 'individual' statement to **CONVEY YOUR INTENTIONS**
- For **each specific objective** you **must have a method** to attempt to achieve it.
- **PRIORITIZE YOUR OBJECTIVES**

# Aims and Objectives should:

- be presented **CONCISELY AND BRIEFLY**
- **BE INTERRELATED.**
  - The aim is what you want to achieve, and the objective describes how you are going to achieve that aim i.e.:
  - make sure that each aim is matched with specific objectives
- **BE REALISTIC** about what you can accomplish in the duration of the project i.e.:
  - the scope of your project must be consistent with the time frame and level of effort available to you
- provide you and your supervisor and assessors with **INDICATORS** of how you:
  - intend to approach the **LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL ISSUES** related to your project
  - intend to **access your chosen subjects, respondents, units, goods or services** and develop a sampling frame and **strategy** or a rationale for their selection
  - will develop a strategy and design for data collection and analysis
  - you will deal with ethical and practical problems in your research

# Aims and Objectives should not:

- be too vague, ambitious or broad in scope:
  - though aims are more general in nature than objectives it is the **viability and feasibility** of your study that you have to demonstrate and aims often present an **over-optimistic** picture of what the project can achieve
- just **REPEAT EACH OTHER** in different terms
- just be a **LIST OF THINGS** related to your research topic
- spend time **DISCUSSING DETAILS OF YOUR JOB** or research site i.e.:
  - it is **your** research study your assessors are interested in and you should keep this in mind at all times.
- contradict methods, that is, they should not imply methodological goals or standards of measurement, proof or generalizability of findings that the methods cannot sustain

# Remember:

- at the conclusion of your project you will need to assess whether or not you have **MET YOUR OBJECTIVES** and if not, why not.
- you may not however always meet your aims in full, since your research may reveal that your questions were inappropriate, that there are intervening variables you could not account for or that the circumstances of the study have changed etc. Whatever the case, your conclusion will still have to **REFLECT ON HOW WELL THE RESEARCH DESIGN THAT WAS GUIDED BY YOUR OBJECTIVES** has contributed to addressing your aims.
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