

Submitting a research proposal for consideration by the IB research committee

The IB is now recognized as a major influence on, and a provider of international education. In keeping with such a status, the organization has the responsibility, and the unique opportunity, to initiate and to foster educational research, research which will promote all IB programmes in the wider educational context, contributing to national and international debate.

In recognition of its standing in the field of international education, the IB has established a research team at the University of Bath to promote and support quality research related to the organization's educational programmes. It is envisaged that endorsement of a research project by the IB research committee will significantly enhance the opportunity for researchers to obtain financial support from funding agencies. We would like to stress that the IB research committee is willing to accept proposals from any individuals or groups, and particularly welcomes submissions from teachers.

This document provides guidelines for submitting a research proposal for consideration to the IB research committee. A proposal may be submitted in any of the three working languages of the IB: English, French, Spanish. Proposals should explain the background to the research by providing information for the following sections of this document, and should demonstrate how the research project can benefit from the IB's support for funding to outside agencies. We recognize that educational research projects can take many forms and that some of the components may not be applicable in all cases. However, when submitting a proposal, please ensure that all of the factors relevant to the project are included.

Prior to preparing a proposal, please read the document *Ethical standards for IB supported research projects* to ensure that the research design meets all of the guidelines.

1 Abstract

This section should encapsulate the entire project by providing a brief summary of the main sections of the research proposal. It should include:

- a a title for the research project
- b name(s) of the researcher(s) and affiliation with a brief CV including academic degrees and publications (if any)
- c a statement of the research question(s)
- d the methodology to be employed
- e expected outcomes
- f the time duration

A [sample proposal](#) is provided as part of this web page.

2 Background to and conceptual framework for the proposed research

In this section, some background should be provided relating to earlier research which is germane to the project and from which variables are identified to construct a conceptual framework. Where appropriate, include references to key publications and to any relevant external benchmarks or related measures. Also state if the research proposal is contributing to or is the full requirement for an academic qualification. If so, please indicate the title of the qualification, the institution which will award it, and the projected completion date for the qualification.

3 Relevance for the IB

Please provide a statement explaining the relevance of the proposed research to the IB programmes or to the curriculum continuum and to debate in the wider educational context.

4 The research question(s)

In this section it is expected that a clear description be given of the research question(s). Wherever appropriate, each major question should be divided into sub-questions. All of the major questions should be explicitly addressed in the following section dealing with the project description.

5 Project description

This is the key section of the proposal. It should be as detailed as possible and should relate directly to the major research questions outlined in the previous section. It should include:

- a a clear statement of objectives
- b an explanation of the methodology or techniques to be used
- c a description of the measures to be employed for the formative and summative evaluation of the project
- d a timetable that clearly delineates each phase of the project.

6 Dissemination of the completed research

Please indicate where you intend to submit the results of your research for publication.

7 Outside funding

Please state, where appropriate, which organization you will approach to seek research funds. In the case of research proposals which have already been submitted to a funding body, please append a copy of the proposal.

To enable the IB research committee to fully assess and advise on the feasibility of the proposal to attract financial support, an estimated budget for the total costs of the research project should be submitted. Please include an explanation of any other kind of support of a non-financial nature which you may require. It would also be helpful if estimates for the different categories of expenditure are provided: for example, hardware; software, travel. If the proposal is a multi-year project, figures should be provided for each year, in addition to a summary of the total costs for the whole period.

All proposals which are submitted to the IB research committee for consideration will receive feedback, whether or not they are endorsed. Any enquiries about submitting a research proposal should be directed to the IB research manager. Advice on the content and organization of the research itself will be given as far as possible, but the research committee cannot undertake to give detailed responses to all aspects and does not assume the role of a supervisor of a thesis in a higher education institution.

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