**Professional Doctorate in Counselling Psychology**

**Research proposal submission form**

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| **1. Provide a preliminary, descriptive title for the proposed investigation (30 words or less):**Your title should accurately reflect your research question, aims and methodology. |
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| **2. List the research question(s) and describe the aims and objectives of the proposed research, thereby demonstrating its originality and contribution (approximately 800 words):**Clearly list the research question(s) and hypotheses/predictions (for quantitative studies) of the proposed research. Provide a succinct summary, based on a distillation of your literature review, of how existing theory, research, practice and policy in the field point to the necessity and value of the proposed study, thereby demonstrating how the proposed study will make a unique contribution to knowledge and professional practice (both to clients and practitioners) within counselling psychology. |
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| **3. Describe and justify the chosen methodology and method (approximately 450 words):**Give a clear description of both the broad methodology and epistemology to be adopted (eg qualitative, quantitative, mixed, social constructionist vs hypothetic-deductive) and the specific methodologies and method(s) to be employed (eg interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) vs grounded theory or regression vs mediation analysis). Provide a clear rationale for the choice of methodology and method(s) that a) demonstrates why these are best suited to the research question, b) explains how the chosen approach will help address particular shortcomings, challenges and needs in the existing knowledge base and c) shows adequate understanding of relevant epistemological issues. |
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| **4. Describe your participants and recruitment strategy (approximately 450 words):**Define and justify the intended participant group, size and sampling strategy. Explain in detail the rationale for inclusion and exclusion criteria, based on the research question, the research method and ethics. For quantitative studies, show your power calculation to establish the required sample size. Describe where you will recruit from and how. Where recruitment will involve an external organisation, describe the steps you have taken to explore this possibility. Identify what the potential challenges to recruitment might be (including the non-availability of your preferred sample) and how you will overcome any such challenges. |
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| **5. Research instruments, measurements, data collection and materials (approximately 350 words):**Describe and justify the method of data collection (eg semi-structured interview, questionnaire, focus group etc). Append a draft of your proposal materials (eg interview schedule, survey questions, experimental procedure) and provide evidence of supporting references to inform materials development. |
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| **6. Data synthesis, analysis and interpretation (approximately 450 words):**Describe and explain your analytic strategy for your data, demonstrating your understanding of the proposed method. |
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| **7. Ethical considerations (approximately 450 words):**Describe how you’ll gain informed consent and protect confidentiality, ensure data security (storage and disposal), provide debriefing and offer follow-up contact or support. With reference to the School of Psychology and British Psychological Society (BPS) ethical guidance, give your assessment of the sensitivity of the research topic and the vulnerability of the participants and, in either case, how you’ll minimise and manage participant discomfort and distress. If the research involves external organisations, describe how you will gain (or have gained) their consent to access data or participants (append any written evidence of this).  |
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| **8. Draft timetable (word count not included):**Give a timetable for the completion of the research that covers the key research stages (eg literature review and proposal, materials development, university and external ethical clearance (if the latter is applicable), recruitment, data collection, analysis, writing up, draft submission to supervisor, further revisions and final submission). Your timetable should be realistic and end with a final submission sometime between June and September of your final year of academic study. |
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| **9. Researcher development programme (word count not included):**Research students at London Met are encouraged and expected, in conjunction with their supervisory team, to develop their personal, professional and research competencies, skills and knowledge throughout the research process, using resources from the London Met Researcher Development Programme and other sources. Give an indication of any of following activities and resources that you have accessed already, where applicable, or plan to engage with: |
| 1. sessions of the London Met Researcher Development Programme
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| b) online courses |
| 1. taught master’s modules
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| 1. attendance at relevant conferences (as a delegate or presenter)
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| 1. dissemination via journal articles, posters, presentations etc
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| 1. attendance at research groups, communities or networks relevant to your topic or method
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| 1. other areas where you plan to develop your research competence
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**Please note:** Word counts for each subsection are for guidance and don’t need to be followed rigidly. However, your proposal overall (excluding sections eight and nine as indicated) must be 3,000 words ± 10%. Submissions of fewer than 2,700 words or greater than 3,300 words will be subject to a marking penalty, which could result in a fail.