

**Proposed Structure for Master's Research Essay/Doctoral Studies Proposals:
Length of Proposal: 10-12 pages maximum**

MRE: Format of the Master's Research Essay:

- Goal is to create a 10,000-word document by your fifth term in the program [i.e., September 2024 to May 2026.]
- Word document.
- Double spaced.
- Use MLA or Chicago style for bibliography and, end- /footnotes; see <https://www.uvic.ca/library/assets/docs/mla.pdf> or https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html .

PhD: Format of the Doctoral Dissertation:

- Goal is to create a 60,000 word document by your fifth year in the program
- Word document.
- Double spaced.
- Use MLA or Chicago style for bibliography and, end- /footnotes; see <https://www.uvic.ca/library/assets/docs/mla.pdf> or https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1.html .

Maximum 10-12 pages, with image and bibliography files separate

1. Title page

Includes the following elements:

- Title of research project
- MA/PhD Project proposal by XXX
- Supervisor: [professional title] [name]
- Department of Art History and Visual Studies
- Author's copyright statement

2. Abstract

500 words. Give a succinct description of the subject area, aims, and argument of the research proposal.

3. Keywords

Maximum 10 keywords that capture the essence of the research topic.

4. Project Description

Components:

- **Context / background** to your field of study. What basic information does the reader need to know about the project. Describe the contextual picture for this particular topic. Finish this section by establishing why this area needs further study.

- 1 or 2 **research questions** that establish the problem you are exploring. What would be added to your field of study, in terms of your research results.
- **Theoretical and methodological frameworks.** Identify one theory [feminist analysis] and one method [HOW you will work, ex., case study] that would be helpful in terms of how you will approach the research topic.
- **Literature Review.** Review the existing scholarship to indicate how you arrived at your research questions; theoretical and methodological frameworks; and talk about what has been done previously in this field. Explain how your field has evolved as a result of the key contributions of other scholars. Talk about how your study will building on existing scholarship.
- **Tentative Conclusion/ Indicate the Value of the Research Project.** Explain why this topic matters to the field. If you like, you may point out potential new areas for future development.

4. Documentation:

- **Inline Citations or End- / Footnotes.** Be sure to document throughout the research and writing stage. The department advises that you do not leave creating citations or notes to the end of the writing stage.
- **Bibliography.** This can be done as one integrated bibliographic list, or it can be split into categories. For example, you may wish to designate ‘primary sources’ from ‘secondary sources’. You should list all works consulted that are relevant, as well as include all cited materials.
- **Images.** You may integrate images into the main proposal or add images as an Appendix. Use a proper citation guide to add captions / credits to all images, as well as a running list of what will appear in the research paper.

Appendix: [one page maximum]

May include Any Special Qualifications / Anticipated Timeline / Ethics Review for students conducting interviews/ Special Permissions?

Created January 2025