Research Proposal Defense

The defense of postgraduate research proposal as well as research progress shall be reviewed at the Research Proposal Defense. The format of the Research Proposal Defense shall be that of a presentation by the student to a review panel. The Review Panel shall consist of senior researchers in the School of Electrical Engineering. The presentation shall be in the format of a 20-minute PowerPoint presentation (which includes a 10-minute discussion). Prior to the presentation, the student must submit the research proposal, which was used for registration. In the presentation, the student must address the following points:

1.) Student name, qualification registered for, date of registration;
2.) Study field and topic of research;
3.) Present the problem statement of the study;
4.) Present the research strategy/methodology for finding the answer to the stated research problem;
5.) Literature review;
    Primary findings from the literature survey conducted for the study;
6.) Present a clear proposed solution to the research problem.
7.) Present the resourcing plan for the resources (time, money, equipment) required to conduct the study;
8.) Present an overview of progress made up to date.

Rubric for Defence of Research Proposal

Student Name: _____

Student Number: _____

Panel Reviewer: _____

Date: _____

Item	Description	Yes	No
1	Student presented the topic and study field with adequate understanding.		
	Student has demonstrated sufficient understanding of the Research Problem.		
2	Student has progressed sufficiently with the literature study.		
3	Student has demonstrated a sufficient understanding of the appropriate Research Methodology for conducting the intended research.		
4	Student has clearly stated the proposed solution to the problem		
5	Student has presented a clear research gap and significance of the study/ original contribution to knowledge for PhD		
6	Student has presented an adequate resourcing plan for the study.		
7	Student has demonstrated sufficient progress in the study.		
8	Student has obtained ethical clearance for the study, if applicable		
9	General opinion:		

A GUIDE TO DEVELOPING A RESEARCH PROPOSAL

TOPIC

- Provide a brief meaningful title to the research.

INTRODUCTION

- Include the following (headings are not required):
    - Brief introduction to the study
    - Context of study
    - Rationale/motivation
    - Which leads to the problem statement – what are you curious about that warrants a research response? What is the gap/niche for this study?
    - Which leads to the study goal/aim, then the objectives.

RESEARCH PROBLEM STATEMENT

- Have a research question
- Clear and concise description of the problem being addressed by the research.

RESEACH AIM & OBJECTIVES

- State the aim of the study and the objectives.
- Objectives give a list of goals to be achieved in connection to the aim of the research.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESEARCH/CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE (FOR PHD)

- For Master's degree, the significance of the study, in connection to the research gap, needs to be stated.
- For PhD, the significance of the study, in connection to the research gap, needs to be stated and the original contribution to knowledge must be clearly articulated.

LITERATURE REVIEW

- This part looks into the literature and discusses other existing studies or research that is relevant to the proposed research.
- Proper citation of other researchers' work, in relation to the proposed study, is key to avoiding plagiarism.

METHODOLOGY

- Research methodology defines the research methods and logic steps - What to do and how to solve the problem and achieve the proposed objectives?

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS (IF ANY)

- If the proposed research has ethical issues, they must be addressed before embarking on the research
- A discussion indicating the consideration of ethical issues must be given.
- For example, studies dealing with humans or animals need ethical approval first before any research is conducted.