

Guide for Anthropology PhD applicants on how to complete question 29 of the application form: “the research proposal”

*Please follow this guide rather than the instructions on the application form*

Question 29 of the application is meant to give the Selectors enough information to decide:

- 1) whether the Department has enough expertise to provide you with adequate supervision
- 2) whether your project addresses an intellectually interesting question
- 3) whether your project is feasible

In view of this, we recommend that you structure your statement in the following way:

- a) Research questions: state the specific research questions you wish to address in your PhD project, explaining (with reference to existing literatures) why you (and others) think these are interesting and important questions that deserve to be studied.
- b) Regional setting: describe the regional setting in which you propose to undertake your research, being as specific as you can; if you have yet to identify a specific area, explain the general characteristics of an ideal setting for your research
- c) Research contexts and interlocutors: indicate the specific kinds of context in which you envisage to carry out your research (e.g., a school, a factory, a village, a neighbourhood) and who you expect to be your main interlocutors
- d) Evidence and methodological strategies: explain what evidence you will need to gather in order to address your research questions, and which methodologies you expect to adopt to gather such evidence.
- e) Relevant expertise: list any relevant expertise (e.g., language proficiency, established local contacts, prior experience in the region)

The statement should be between 2000 and 2500 words.