Department of Anthropology

AN286 research proposal grade criteria

The research proposal should demonstrate the student's:

1. Ability to identify an appropriate topic for anthropological fieldwork, which can be studied through observational, conversational, and participatory research techniques
2. Ability to formulate relevant anthropological research questions about their topic, and to communicate their analytical and/or societal relevance
3. Reflexivity with regards to the student's own positionality – including their motivations, expectations, and assumptions – in relation to their fieldwork topic
4. Consideration of the feasibility of their chosen fieldwork topic, and their ability to anticipate and respond to challenges.
5. Consideration of potential ethical dilemmas in relation to their fieldwork project.

Class	Marks (%)	Attributes
First (1)	**70 -100**	Excellent ability to conceptualise an anthropological research project as evidenced by clear and relevant research questions and feasible fieldwork scope. The proposal clearly shows how data collection techniques will be deployed, and how the data thereby generated is expected to answer research questions and produce relevant insights. The proposal carefully identifies practical and ethical challenges and responds to them in pragmatic and insightful manner.
Upper Second (2:1)	**60 – 69**	Good ability to conceptualise an anthropological research project as evidenced by reasonably clear and relevant research questions and feasible fieldwork scope. The proposal offers useful suggestions for how data collection techniques may be used, and how the data thereby generated may answer research questions and produce relevant insights. The proposal identifies and productively discusses relevant practical and ethical challenges.

Lower Second (2:2)	**50 – 59**	Satisfactory ability to conceptualise an anthropological research project as evidenced by research questions that have empirical or analytical relevance but are only tangentially linked to the fieldwork itself. The proposal offers suggestions for how data collection techniques may be deployed but struggles to show how the data thereby generated will answer research questions and produce relevant insights. While some practical and ethical challenges are identified, not all of them are productively discussed; significant practical and ethical issues may have gone unmentioned. The writing is often imprecise, and the overall presentation is confusing.
Third (3)	**40 – 49**	Poor ability to conceptualise an anthropological research project (evidenced by weak or unanswerable research questions). The proposal offers some suggestions for how data collection techniques may be deployed but struggles to link them to the research questions. The proposal shows little-to-no reflexivity vis-à-vis the student's own positionality and the practical and ethical issues related to their fieldwork (topic). The writing lacks clarity and cogency, with repetitions and/or contradictions.
Fail	**20 – 39**	The proposal contains little evidence that the candidate has thought about their fieldwork project. The proposal is shallow and lacks relevance and/or substance.
Bad Fail	**0 – 19**	The candidate has failed to write a research proposal.