

Research proposal for MSc students

The student should submit the proposal until the end of the first academic year. The proposal length shouldn't exceed 5 pages, not including the references, written in English. The proposal should include: Scientific background and motivation, research goal and specific aims, experimental design and methods, preliminary results and significance statement (See details below). After submitting the proposal, a "Reviewing Committee" will be convened, whose members will include the student supervisor (s) and two other researchers. The student will present the proposal orally to the reviewing committee (see details below) The committee will discuss the proposal with the student and assess the suitability of the proposed research to the academic and logistic criteria of a MSc thesis in the department, which includes, scientific goals, the time required to complete the research, available equipment, capabilities, feasibility etc. The committee can approve, reject or require changes in the proposal. The committee approval is required for the continuation of the student research. If the committee ask for changes in the research proposal, the student should resubmit the revised proposal within a month. The committee will then decide on the approval or rejection of the proposal within 2 weeks from resubmission. If the proposal is rejected, the adviser, the head of the department and the head of the teaching committee will meet to discuss the continuation of the student's studies in the department.

General instructions for writing MSc proposal:

- Limited to five pages including figures without references.
- Font: Times New Roman/Ariel size 12
- Line space: 1.5
- Margins: Minimum 2cm

M.Sc Research Proposal

Title- one sentence - A concise description of the goal of the proposed research.

Student's and adviser's names, The Department of Marine Biology, Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences, University of Haifa.

Abstract- one paragraph (up to 300 words) that includes a brief summary of the research

proposal: the scientific background necessary to understand the research rationale, the gap in knowledge, the aim of the proposed research, major experimental/analytical approaches, and expected significance.

Introduction 1-2 pages The introduction should include the information that is sufficient and necessary for the reviewer to understand why you do what you want to do. That includes the scientific background necessary to understand the research rationale and the gap in knowledge that the proposed research would address. The introduction can be divided into subtitles.

Research objectives

State overall goal of the proposal and the specific aims (focused research objectives):

1. xxx
2. xx
3. xx

Working hypothesis – 1 paragraph where you state your hypothesis about the system you study. The hypothesis should be testable by the experiments/analyses you propose.

Experimental design & methods- 1-2 pages describing the proposed experiments to address each specific aim. Should be divided into subtitles

Preliminary results- 1-2 pages that could be a part of the experimental section design if appropriate, describing the experiments/analyses conducted so far and what you learned from them.

Expected significance – 1 paragraph that describes the impact and significance of the proposed research if the overall goal is achieved.

References- use PNAS style.

Proposal oral presentation

The student should prepare a short presentation (~25minutes) where the different sections of the proposal are presented orally. It is highly recommended to accompany the presentation with power-point slides with illustration/diagrams/demonstrations that help the committee to understand the background, goals, specific aims and hypothesis as well as assess the experimental design, preliminary results and time table. The language of the presentation should be English, unless the student requests to present in Hebrew and the committee agrees.