# Research Project Proposal

The **Research Project Folio** consists of two main criteria, **Planning and Development.** The first main assessment criterion is '**Planning**' and an important part to this is the Research Proposal.

## What is the Research Project Proposal?

Whenever a new project is undertaken, it usually begins with a Proposal. Essentially a Research Project Proposal suggests and explains two main things:

- **What** the Research Project will be about (including a main question and sub-questions or topics)
- **How** the research could be undertaken

## How long is the Research Project Proposal?

The Proposal is forms part, usually the first part, of the **Folio** (of which a maximum of 10 pages or 20 minutes multimodal could moderated by SACE). Planning can occur throughout your Folio but mostly occurs in the Proposal which is usually one page of **500 to 600 words** (or equivalent if multimodal) as well as in mind-maps, or planning charts.

## What should be included in the Proposal?

1. **Introduce the background to your topic and Question**:
   - Why did you decide on this topic?
   - What is your refined question?
   - Why is this question particularly interesting and worth researching?
   - What other research or information or research is available on your topic?

2. **Identify your main question, and what are your focus questions:**
   - What is your **main question**?
   - What does your **main question mean**? (Define keywords and explain what you mean)
   - What foundation (who, what, where, why, when, how) focus questions will you need to answer to help answer the main question? (Most students have **4-5 focus questions**).

3. Explain the **Research Processes** you intend to use and identify possible sources.

- What **research processes or actions** do you intend to or could you use to answer your question?
- These might include: websites, articles, books, surveys, interviews, practical etc etc (BE AS SPECIFIC AS YOU CAN, include reference details with titles and names etc).
- Explain why these sources would be suitable for your research topic and question.

4. Choose and explain which **capabilities or capability** that you will be developing during the Research Project Folio. You need to choose one or more of the following capabilities:
   - Literacy
   - Numeracy
   - Personal and Social Capability
   - Information and Communication Technology Capability
   - Critical or creative thinking
   - Ethical Understanding
   - Intercultural Understanding.

The two main things to show in your Folio and Proposal is the **understanding** (knowing what is means) and **development** (doing or demonstrating) **one or more of these capabilities**.

Please refer to the **SACE, Australian Curriculum websites** if you are unsure about what these capabilities mean for you and your Research Project.

5. Other information to support your Proposal might include where appropriate:
   - **Safety considerations** (for you and others)
   - **Ethical considerations** (is this a sensitive topic? How will you ensure you research ethically?)
   - **Timelines and mind-maps** to support your planning.
   - **Any other piece of information to show planning of your research.**

# Research Project Performance Standards

**The Proposal forms part of the Folio**, which also includes Development.

| Grade | Planning | Likely to include: |
|---|---|---|
| A | P1 **Thorough consideration** and <u>**refinement**</u> of a **research question.**<br><br>P2 Thorough planning of research processes that are highly appropriate to the research question. | A question that has a specific focus and context, included focus questions or explanation directly related to answering the main question.<br><br>Comprehensive plan, includes the details of research processes that are highly appropriate, ethical, safe and fit for purpose |
| B | P1 **Consideration** and **some refinement** of a research question.<br><br>P2 **Considered planning** of research processes that are appropriate to the research question. | A question that is refined but not as precise as it could be. Focus questions that have some connection to the topic<br><br>Planning of a number or research process and/or activities that a suitable for the research topic |
| C | P1 Some consideration of a research question, **but little evidence of refinement.**<br><br>P2 **Satisfactory planning** of research processes that are appropriate to the research question. | A broad question, that only partly refined and broad and could include general focus questions.<br><br>Some planning research processes of activities that are satisfactory and suitable, but lack detail. |
| D | P1 **Basic consideration** and identification of a broad research question.<br><br>P2 **Partial planning** of research processes that may be appropriate to the research question. | A basic broad question.<br><br>Partially planned research processes or activities, that might have limited relevance to your topic or question. |
| E | P1 **Attempted consideration** and identification of an area for research.<br><br>P2 **Attempted planning** of an aspect of the research process. | A very general research idea.<br><br>Not much or no planning or suitable research activities or processes related to the topic. |