Faculty of Arts Research Statement Template

To study a Postgraduate Research programme within the Faculty of Arts you will need to submit a research statement. You should use the following template as guidance when completing your research statement.

The primary requirement for the research statement is to define and situate your research within an academic/disciplinary context. You should remember that people in the academic community are the primary audience/readership for postgraduate research. The research statement should be approximately 1000 words.

Within your research statement you will need to identify:

1. Research Questions or Problems

You should describe clearly the research questions or problems that you intend to address.

  I.   What are the issues that you will be exploring in the course of your research?

2. Research Context

You should describe the research context for your project/programme of work.

  I.   Why is it important that these questions or issues are explored?
  II.   What other research is being or has been conducted in this area?
  III. What contribution will your project make to improving, enhancing, or developing creativity, insights, knowledge or understanding in your chosen area of study?
  IV.   To which audiences will the outcomes of your research be of particular interest?

3. Research Methods

You should describe the research methods you will use to pursue the key questions of your work.

  I.   What research methods will you be using to address the questions that you have set yourself, or to explore the matters you intend to investigate?
  II.   Why have you chosen these methods why are they the best way to answer the research questions you have set?
  III. What will be your role?
  IV.   If there are other people involved, what will their roles be and why are they the appropriate people to be involved?

In describing your research methods it is not sufficient to state, for example, that you intend to visit a particular archive, or an exhibition abroad. You must provide adequate details of sources to be consulted, and you should state briefly what kinds of material you will be consulting, why they are relevant to your programme of research, and how you will interrogate them.

4. Project management

  I.   How will the project be managed?
  II.   What will the research outcome(s) be?
  III. What is the timetable for the project, does it include appropriate milestones and is it realistic?
  IV.   When will the outputs of the project be completed?

5. Publication and Dissemination

  I.   How, where and when will the research be published and disseminated, in part and/or as a whole?