**PhD proposal – A suggested structure**

1. **Title**
2. **Introduction/rationale (300-500 words)**
* Provides the context of the study. It outlines the broader area of research, introduces the topic, and explains why it is significant or timely.
1. **Research focus (300 words)**
* Defines the specific unaddressed issue or underexplored area that the research will address. Explains why this problem is important and worth investigating.
1. **Research aims and questions (200 words)**
* States the main aim(s) of the project and lists specific research questions (2 - 3 Max.) that will guide the investigation.
1. **Literature review (1000 words)**
* Critically reviews existing research related to the topic. Identifies key debates, theoretical frameworks, and gaps that your study will respond to.
1. **Theoretical framework (1000 words)**
* Outlines the theoretical lens through which the research problem will be analysed.
1. **Methodology (300 words)**
* Describes the overall research approach and justifies why this approach is appropriate for your study.
	1. **Methods (700 words)**
	+ Details the specific methods for data collection and analysis (e.g. interviews, action research, co-production, questionnaires, discourse analysis, etc.), including sampling strategies and ethical considerations.
1. **Expected contribution to knowledge (300 words)**
* Explains what the research is expected to uncover or demonstrate, and how it will contribute to academic knowledge, practice and/or policy.
1. **Academic references**
2. **PhD timeline**
* Provides a realistic timeline for the PhD project, typically divided into months, outlining major milestones like literature review, data collection, analysis, and writing up. Use a Gantt chart for that purpose.

**Additional information:**

**Please specify when you intend to start your PhD studies:**

*Example: October 2026*

**Funding**: Please specify if you will be seeking funding to support your PhD studies or if you will be self-funding your degree. If you are seeking funding, please specify which one.

**Some recommended journals when preparing your PhD proposal:**

*This is not an exhaustive list*

1. [Learning, Media and Technology](https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cjem20/current)
2. [Digital cultural and education](https://www.digitalcultureandeducation.com/)
3. [Researching in Learning Technology](https://journal.alt.ac.uk/index.php/rlt)
4. [Australasian Journal of Educational Technology](https://ajet.org.au/index.php/AJET/about)
5. [New Media and Society](https://journals.sagepub.com/home/nms)
6. [Educational Technology Research and Development](https://www.jstor.org/journal/edutechresedeve)
7. [Social Media + Society](https://journals.sagepub.com/home/SMS)
8. [Educational Technology and Society](https://www.j-ets.net/)
9. [British Journal of Educational Technology](https://www.bera.ac.uk/publication/british-journal-of-education-technology)

**If you are interested in employing a critical theoretical frame to your work, here is**

**Start here**:

Macgilchrist, F. (2021). What is ‘critical’ in critical studies of edtech? Three responses. *Learning, Media and Technology*, *46*(3), 243–249. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17439884.2021.1958843>

Selwyn, N. (2015). Technology and Education—Why It’s Crucial to be Critical. In S. Bulfin, N. F. Johnson, & C. Bigum (Eds), *Critical Perspectives on Technology and Education* (pp. 245–255). Palgrave Macmillan US. <https://doi.org/10.1057/9781137385451_14>

***Further readings:***

Costa, C., Bhatia, P., Murphy, M., & Pereira, A. L. (2023). Digital Education Colonized by Design: Curriculum Reimagined. *Education Sciences*, *13*(9), Article 9. <https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci13090895>

Costa, C., Hammond, M., & Younie, S. (2019). Theorising technology in education: An introduction. *Technology, Pedagogy and Education*, *28*(4), 395–399. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1475939X.2019.1660089>

Decuypere, M., Grimaldi, E., & Landri, P. (2021). Introduction: Critical studies of digital education platforms. *Critical Studies in Education*, *62*(1), 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17508487.2020.1866050>

Selwyn, N. (2023). Constructive Criticism? Working with (Rather than Against) the AIED Back-Lash. *International Journal of Artificial Intelligence in Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40593-023-00344-3>

Selwyn, N., Hillman, T., Eynon, R., Ferreira, G., Knox, J., Macgilchrist, F., & Sancho-Gil, J. M. (2020). What’s next for Ed-Tech? Critical hopes and concerns for the 2020s. *Learning, Media and Technology*, *45*(1), 1–6. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17439884.2020.1694945>

***For a comprehensive exploration of social/critical theory:***

Murphy, M. (2021). *Social Theory: A New Introduction*. Palgrave Macmillan. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-78324-2>