

PhD Programme in Communication

Research pre-project template
to be submitted with the application

General indications

- The application for the PhD Programme in Communication must include a first approach to the research to be carried out. This **pre-project template** has been prepared to make it easier to evaluate the proposals.
- The ideal length of the pre-project is **5 to 8 pages** (Times 11 / 1.5 space) including the bibliography. The **maximum length is 10 pages**. The document must include the following sections (the suggested length for each section is indicated in parentheses):
 - **Title of the proposal – Author – Contact information** (max. 1 p.)
 - **Objectives** (max. 1 p.)

*Describe the objectives of the research you want to carry out as clearly as possible. The objectives must be realistic and achievable within the duration of the programme (three years, with the option of a one-year extension). Try to focus on them as much as possible. In addition to the objectives, we recommend you include some research questions or hypotheses that could guide your research. The key question in this section is, **What do I want to research?***

- **State of the question** (max. 3 p.)

*In this section we ask you to describe the research field in which your thesis is located. This will allow you to put the proposal you want to develop into a context. Knowing the context will help avoid duplicating research and make it easier to identify the proposal's original contributions. Both theoretical references and applied research can be included in this section. The key questions in this section are, **Which research themes stand out in the field in which I want to do my research? What do I think I can bring to the field of study?***

- **Method** (max. 2 p.)

*This section should explain how you plan to achieve the research objectives (questions/hypotheses). It is important to indicate whether you will be working with experimental, qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods, and indicate the main analysis categories you would like to apply. The key questions in this section are, **How will I obtain the data for my research? What research phases will I follow?***

- **Relationship with the Department of Communication** (max. 1 p.)

*Explain clearly in which research group you think the research can be developed, highlighting the research line in which your project would fit. This section is very important: the aim of the PhD Programme is to integrate the theses as much as possible within the objectives and research lines of the groups. Do not hesitate to contact the coordinator for more information before writing the proposal. The key question in this section is, **Why is the _____ group of the UPF Department of Communication the best place for me to develop my thesis?***

- **Bibliography** (max. 2 p.)

Include only specific texts, privileging the most recent references cited in the State of the Question.

UPF has a tutorial to support the writing of academic papers: <https://guiesbibtic.upf.edu/treball-academic/inici>