How to prepare a Research Proposal?

What should a PhD research proposal include?
- Define a clear question and approach to answering it
- Highlight its originality and/or significance
- Explain how it adds to, develops (or challenges) existing literature in the field
- Persuade potential supervisors and/or funders of the importance of the work, and why *you* are the right person to undertake it

In a nutshell, your research proposal answers two questions – (a) What – what are the questions you will address and what outcome do you expect and (b) Why – Why the proposed questions are relevant and why should they be worked on

Why is a research proposal required?
We use your research proposals to assess your understanding of the proposed HCI topic, quality and originality of your proposal, your skills in critical thinking and the feasibility of the proposed research. The proposal is also used to assess your expertise in the area in which you want to conduct research, your knowledge of the existing literature. We also try to understand how your proposal will enhance the existing literature.

In addition to the specific research contents of the topic, we also look at the scientific ability and clarity of the written communication, scientific rigor of presented literature and your profile.

How to structure the research proposal?
- **Title:** A short and clearly communicated title for your research. Do not worry, this changes over time as you progress through your PhD. However, the title must demonstrate keywords that effectively communicates your research goals, questions and objectives.
- **Overview of the research**: Please provide a short overview of your research, how and where it fits (or expands) in existing research debates, papers and any other literature. Build on the latest results from the HCI community. Refer to papers from top HCI journals and conferences to study the most recent and effective work. Make sure that your research idea, question or problem is very clearly stated, persuasive and addresses a demonstrable gap in the existing literature
- **Research questions**: What questions will your study during the course of your PhD? The research questions can be 3-4 in number – there is no limit to the number of research questions. However, I have never seen a PhD or research proposal with 10 research questions. So be thoughtful, and present research questions are relevant and feasible.
- **Approach to study the research questions** – How do you intend to study/investigate the research questions? What approaches (e.g. empirical, theoretical, case studies based etc.) will you adopt to study the research question? It doesn't have to be very detailed, however an overview of the methods/approaches are required.
- **Significance of your research**: What contribution will you make to the research community and/or to the society (if it is applied research)?
- **Brief discussion of the timeline**: An idea about how do you intend to pursue your research, how much time each section of your research will take (according to your estimations). If possible, you may add various activities you will do during each section of your research.