

Theatre & Performance Studies MRP Proposal Guidelines

2015-16

NOTE: These guidelines pertain to students entering the MA program in Fall 2014 who wish to complete their degree through the MRP pathway.

Due: February 26, 2015

Please submit to the Graduate Program Office in person or via e-mail by Noon on Feb 26.

The MRP proposal consists of a project overview; definition of timelines; and supervisor sign off.

PART I: PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project overview is 900-1000 words and should be approximately 3-5 pages in length (double spaced, Times New Roman). The project overview must include the following:

A) PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES (APPROX. 300-350 WORDS)

Introduce your research topic and state the explicit objectives of your project. Describe your project in a clear, straightforward manner. Avoid jargon wherever possible. Remember that not everyone reading your proposal will be a specialist in your area. This is especially important when applying for grants. This does not mean that you should not use specialized language but rather that you should be attentive to what others may/ may not know.

B) CONTEXT AND LITERATURE REVIEW (APPROX. 300-350 WORDS)

Situate the proposed research in the context of relevant scholarly literature. Offer a brief description of current work in the field and explain how your project is participating in existing conversations and/or extending previous work. In other words, describe what has been done already and why your project *has to happen*.

If you are planning to use a particular theoretical framework, i.e. Butler's notion of performativity, you should identify this here and provide some description of how others have used it and why such a theory is appropriate for your research.

C) METHODS (APPROX. 300-350 WORDS)

Outline the process you will undertake to complete the project.

What methodology or methodologies is/are most appropriate for your project? What exactly will you do? Who will you contact? For what reason and with which questions in mind? Possible methodologies include ethnographic approaches, archival work, practice-based research, theoretical analysis, etc.

Above all, make sure to articulate the relationship between your central research question and your methods of research. In other words, make an argument for why your research question requires your methods.

D) WORKS CITED (MINIMUM OF 10 SOURCES; NO WORD LIMIT)

Bibliography of works cited in your MRP proposal

E) RESEARCH ETHICS (ONLY IF APPLICABLE)

If your project involves human participants you will also need to submit the following Research Ethics documentation with your proposal:

- Human Participants Research Protocol Form (TD2)
- Informed Consent Checklist for Researchers (TD3)
- TCPS Tutorial Certificate dated within last 2 years

The TD2 and TD3 forms can be found on the FGS website (<http://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/thesis-dissertation/forms/>) and the TCPS tutorial is available online (<http://tcps2core.ca/welcome>).

PART II: MRP TIMELINES

Setting out clear timelines is an important step in the MRP proposal. It is extremely important that students understand that they must not leave the MRP work to the second half of the summer term but should work steadily throughout the summer to complete the paper in a timely manner. Please note that

the FINAL (i.e. fully approved) MRP must be submitted to the Graduate Program by Friday August 15, 2014 by noon.

Aside from the proposal deadline and the final deadline, the student, supervisor and second reader can set deadlines for the drafts as they see fit. Supervisors may also opt to add specific deadlines for drafts/sections as appropriate – the purpose of deadlines is to ensure that student's have a realistic, feasible timeline around the completion of their MRP.

Failure to meet graduate program deadlines could prevent you from completing an MRP (failure to submit proposal by the deadline), or prevent you from completing your degree within three terms (final submission deadline). Those students planning to progress into a PhD program (either at York or another institution) should pay particular attention to the submission deadline.

Failure to meet the deadlines set out by your supervisor could result in your supervisor removing him/herself from your project.

| Item | Deadline |
|---|----------------------------------|
| MRP Proposal to Graduate Program | Friday February 26, 2016 by noon |
| Draft One to Supervisor | |
| Draft Two to Supervisor & Second Reader | |
| Draft Three to Supervisor & Second Reader (If necessary based on draft two) | |
| Final Submission of MRP to Graduate Program including Supervisor & Second Reader Sign Offs | Friday August 12, 2016 by noon |

PART III: SUPERVISOR SIGN OFF

Supervisor and second reader please sign to confirm your approval of the proposal and agreement with the proposed timelines.

| Name | Signature | Date |
|---------------|-----------|------|
| Student | | |
| Supervisor | | |
| Second Reader | | |

Note: E-mail confirmations of agreement to supervise can be sent to gradthea@yorku.ca in lieu of physical signatures.