



Research plan guideline for applicants to the International Doctoral Programme in Epidemiology and Public Health

The research plan should explain clearly how the proposed research will answer the study question(s). Research plans should be structured according to the instructions given below. The research plan **must not exceed 6 pages excluding summary** (Times New Roman 11 pt or equivalent). Convert the research plan to a pdf file and append it to the online application. Name the attachment file as follows: yoursurname_research plan. Make sure the research plan remains legible after you convert it to pdf.

Structure and content of the research plan

Applicant's name, project title, site of research, date of research plan

1. Executive Summary (1 page)

2. Background and Rationale

- Public health significance of the project in relation to current knowledge: How is the project linked to previous international and national research? How will the project advance the current knowledge?
- How is the project linked to previous research by the applicant or the research team, or to some other research?

3. Overall and specific objectives of the research

- Objectives of the project and their theoretical and methodological underpinnings
- Research questions or hypotheses

4. Research methods and material, support from research environment

- Research methods, described so as to explain how they will contribute to answering the research questions/confirming the hypotheses, or how they will support the chosen approach
- Research material to be used and its significance for the research project. Justification for the research material, how the data will be collected and used.
- What kind of tangible support will the project receive from local, national and international research environments?
- Use of research infrastructures, description of how the project benefits from such use

5. Ethical issues

- Description of ethical issues (e.g. ethical governance procedures, informed consent, anonymity of subjects, withdrawal from research) concerning the chosen topic, methods and data, as well as any research permits or information on pending permit applications

6. Implementation: schedule, reporting

- Tentative schedule for the research
- Publication plan: publishing of research results, dissemination and communication to the scientific community

7. Research team and collaborative partners

- Roles and merits of research team members that are relevant to the project
- National and international collaboration, and its significance for project implementation

8. Expected results and impact

- Expected research results and their anticipated scientific impact.
- Potential for societal impact in the long or short term

9. References