# Research Proposal Form

**Once completed, this form should be emailed to** [**pals.rfsupport@ucl.ac.uk**](mailto:pals.rfsupport@ucl.ac.uk)**, copying in your supervisor(s).**

**Before submitting, please send a draft to your supervisor(s) for them to comment on and make suggestions. This should be well ahead (i.e. several weeks) of the deadline for submitting the form to the course. Please contact your supervisor to agree a date that allows them time to comment and sign the final version.**

1. **Summary**

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| **Title of Project** |  | |
| **Proposed start date** | |  |
| **Proposed end date** | |  |
| **Internal supervisor(s)** | |  |
| **External supervisor(s)** | |  |
| **Joint Project?** If so, who is your partner | |  |
| **What kind of ethical approval is required?** Delete as appropriate | | NHS / UCL ethics / ethical approval already in placed / secondary analysis not requiring ethical approval |
| **Setting and recruitment** Where will research take place and where will participants be recruited from?  (e.g. clinical services / school / university sample) | |  |
| **Summary of proposal (150-200 words)**  What is the research question that you are going to address?  What is new and/or important about this research? What will you have found out at the end of the project?  *\* You might find it helpful to fill in this part of the form last* | | |

1. **Introduction**

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| **Provide a *brief* background to the project (~750 words maximum)**  Briefly summarise the key existing research and findings and how they led you to formulate your project.  What are the key areas that your research is building from or tying together e.g. psychological processes of interest (e.g. effect of mood on memory), client group (e.g. adults with a diagnosis of depression), intervention (e.g. compassion-focused imagery).  What are the gaps in what has been done before? |
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| **List of key references** (APA format) |
| **What are the *Aims* of the present study?** *e.g. to better understand how low mood shapes recollection of memory* |
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| **What are your main hypotheses?\***  These should be clearly stated and testable. If appropriate, specify the direction of any effects (small vs larger) or associations (negative vs positive). Use a numbered list if there is more than one hypothesis.  *e.g.H1: people with lower mood will show greater recollection of negatively valenced memories*  *\*If the research is more exploratory, it may be more appropriate to state the broader research questions.* |
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1. **Methods**

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| **Participants.** Who will be involved? Specify how and where they will they be recruited from. |
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| What are the key inclusion and exclusion criteria? |
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***Design:***

*Studies may have quantitative methods (****Section A****), qualitative methods (****Section B****), or both. Please fill in the sections that apply, and then complete* ***Section C.***

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| **A.** **Quantitative methods** |
| Describe your study design (e.g. Is the design cross-sectional or longitudinal? Is the design within-participants or between-participants?)  What are the independent variables (including any manipulations or interventions) and what are the dependent variables that you are measuring? |
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| **Measures.**  Give a *brief* rationale for the variables and measures to be used. Comment on their validity and suitability for use in *this* study. |
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| **Predictions and planned analyses.**  What statistical analyses will you use? For example, if you are using an ANOVA, state the factors and the main effects and/or interactions of interest.  Be specific about measures analysed and explain how the analysis will allow you to test your hypotheses/research questions. |
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| **B. Qualitative methods** |
| **Data collection**  Describe your sampling method  If conducting interviews, detail the interview topics and key questions to be asked here.  Detail how you arrived at these methods. How will you seek consultation/input on your proposed methods? |
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| **Analysis**  Which analytic approach(es) are you considering and why? How is this approach best suited to answer your research questions?  Do you plan on using software (e.g. N-Vivo) in your analysis? If not, detail how you will ensure a systematic and rigorous approach in your analysis. |
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| **C. Protocol – *complete this section regardless of whether your study is quantitative, qualitative, or mixed***  Summarise what will happen to your participants (from the point of being approached to the end of the study)? Keep this brief (maximum 350 words) |
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1. **Ethical considerations and service user involvement**

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| **What are the key ethical considerations?**  A brief, bullet pointed list – and how you’ve addressed them – will suffice at this stage |
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| **Service user involvement.**  How has or will service user involvement shape your research design and/or dissemination? For example, participant involvement in developing the protocol or interview schedule, or analysis |
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1. **Project Feasibility**

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| **Proposed sample size**  How many participants will you need for your primary planned analysis? Briefly describe how you arrived at this estimate. If a quantitative study, describe your power analysis. |
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| **Feasibility and timeline**  What issues may arise that could delay study approval, data collection and analysis?  Explain how you will access your required sample and provide a timeline for recruitment. Discuss this carefully with your supervisor  It is suggested to include a contingency plan (or “plan B”) that you will resort to if issues around feasibility jeopardise your original plan. |
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| **Is this a joint/shared project with another trainee?**  How have you ensured that your project will be sufficiently distinct from others? |
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| **Institutional arrangements**  Who will help with each component of the research? Explain how the team provides *all* the necessary support, including 1) recruitment, 2) data collection and 3) each type of analysis. |
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| **Costings**  Please consult the course website to check eligible costs (https://www.ucl.ac.uk/clinical-psychology-doctorate/funding-major-research-project) |
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1. **Supervisor sign off**

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| **Please ensure your supervisor endorses the following checks before submitting** |
| **I confirm that:**  I agree to supervise this project  I have read the proposal and had the opportunity to give feedback  The research team includes all necessary expertise, as detailed in the Institutional Arrangements above (section V)  Signed ………………………………………………………..  Name…………………………………………………………..  Date…………………………………………………………… |