

# **Guidelines for Preparing a Research Proposal**

## **Doctoral School in Economics, University of Szeged**

As part of your PhD application, we expect you to submit a well-structured research proposal. This document should outline the key elements of your planned research and demonstrate its relevance, originality, and feasibility. The expected length of the research proposal is 10000 to 20000 characters (including spaces). Below are the essential components we expect to see:

### **1. Title and Introduction**

- Provide a clear and concise title for your research.
- Introduce the topic, highlighting the importance of the research within your field of study.
- Clearly define the objectives of your research.
- State the main research question or hypothesis you aim to explore.

### **2. Literature Review**

- Summarize existing research relevant to your topic.
- Identify gaps in the current literature that your research will address.
- Show an understanding of the theoretical framework that underpins your research area.

### **3. Methodology**

- Describe the methods you will use to conduct your research, including data collection and analysis techniques.
- Justify why these methods are appropriate for addressing your research questions.
- If applicable, discuss any ethical considerations.

### **4. Expected Contributions**

- Outline the main issues investigated in your research.
- Explain how your research will contribute to the academic field and address the identified gaps in the literature.
- Highlight the potential practical implications of your work.

### **5. Timeline**

- Provide a realistic timeline that outlines the major phases of your research project (e.g., literature review, data collection, analysis, writing etc.).

### **6. References**

- Include a list of key references that you have consulted in preparing your proposal.

By covering these points in a concise and structured manner, your proposal will demonstrate your preparedness for undertaking doctoral research.