

MPHIL / PHD THESIS PROPOSAL

Before beginning to research and write the thesis, candidates for the MPhil and PhD degrees must formally submit a Thesis Proposal that will serve as a descriptive prospectus of the research to be undertaken. To this end, candidates should first identify and consult with a potential Supervisor for the project.

Candidates should also determine whether the materials for the thesis, or a substantial part thereof, are available either in the Main Library here at Cave Hill or elsewhere locally or regionally. The candidate should also determine whether it may be necessary to travel abroad in pursuit of these objectives and how the necessary financial support to accomplish this might be obtained.

The Proposal, a minimum of **five (5)** pages (double-spaced, excluding bibliography) should include the following information:

- the working title of the thesis which may be subject to further revision or exact specification as your research proceeds. However, even at this stage, the goal should be to describe your project as clearly and as accurately as possible.
- a definition of the subject agreed upon by both the candidate and the potential Supervisor. This should include a statement of the specific issue or 'thesis' to be investigated.
- an account of the existing state of scholarship on the subject, a justification of the undertaking of such a project, as well as an indication of its potential contribution to knowledge in this area.
- a tentative list of the divisions, phases or chapters into which the thesis will fall so far as the candidate can see them at this stage of his/her work.
- selective bibliography which should follow the guidelines prescribed by the MLA HANDBOOK. The bibliography should adumbrate the:
 - primary sources (authors, texts, editions, etc.);
 - chief secondary sources which bear most closely upon the subject.

The Proposal should be formally submitted to the Supervisor/Lecturer for review. Candidates will be informed in due course of the date of their Defence after which candidates will be informed whether the Proposal has been accepted as is.

All requested revisions should be made promptly and the finished Proposal formally resubmitted to the Department's Coordinator of Graduate Studies.