



FEUP FACULDADE DE ENGENHARIA
UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO

**DOCTORAL PROGRAMME
IN ELECTRICAL
AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING**

(<http://www.fe.up.pt/pdeec>)

**Thesis Research Plan (TRP)
Guidelines**

DEEC
Departamento
de Engenharia Electrotécnica
e de Computadores

Thesis Research Plan (TRP). Guidelines

Summary

1. Goals
2. Organization of the TRP
3. The TRP in the programme
4. Useful links

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1. **Goals**
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As established in the PDEEC bylaws the TRP (art 6º, n. 9)

“O plano de trabalhos de doutoramento ... é apresentado ... em documento escrito, identificando os objetivos, descrevendo o estado da arte, relatando o trabalho já desenvolvido e propondo as linhas de trabalho futuro.”

The TRP is a document submitted in English to the Supervising Committee, before the end of the 2nd year in the programme (15-18 months is the recommendation of the PDECC Scientific Committee).

The document must clearly define the objectives of the thesis, identify the main contributions in the field, report preliminary developments and sketch the research plan.

The work developed in the course of Individual Topics 2, under the supervision of a professor, is recommended to be oriented towards the preparation of the TRP.

Thesis Research Plan (TRP). Guidelines

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A typical structure of the TRP document is as follows (some sub-bullets are included, for reference):

- Title
Abstract
Table of Contents
1. Introduction
 - Goals
 - Organization of the TRP
 2. State-of-the-art
 3. Relevance of the subject
 4. Preliminary developments
 5. Research plan
 - Research tasks
 - Timetable
 6. References

A reasonable size for the document is in the range of 50-80 pages.

Thesis Research Plan (TRP). Guidelines

After the title, abstract and table of contents, a typical structure of the TRP document is as follows:

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1. **Introduction**
Where the author motivates the reader, characterizes the context of the research, states clearly the main objectives of the thesis, identifies the main expected novelties and briefly describes the contents of the TRP document.
2. **State-of-the-art**
The main and recent contributions in the field are to be identified, both at a various levels, namely the conceptual, methodological and application levels. This is not supposed to be a simple list of the main articles of the field. Some own work in organizing the material is recommended, in order to present an exclusive and original view of what's on in the field.
3. **Relevance of the subject**
Clearly identify the relevance and the impact of the subject both at the theoretical and application levels.
4. **Preliminary developments**
Report and discuss the research already developed. Preliminary results can be important to validate the future developments in the research plan. It may include a list of publications if available.
5. **Research plan**
The main research tasks to be developed are to be identified here. For each task, the author must identify the objectives, describe the contents, identify the main deliverables and foresee the main difficulties and challenges. A chronogram is recommended.
6. **References**
Give here the main references used in your work.

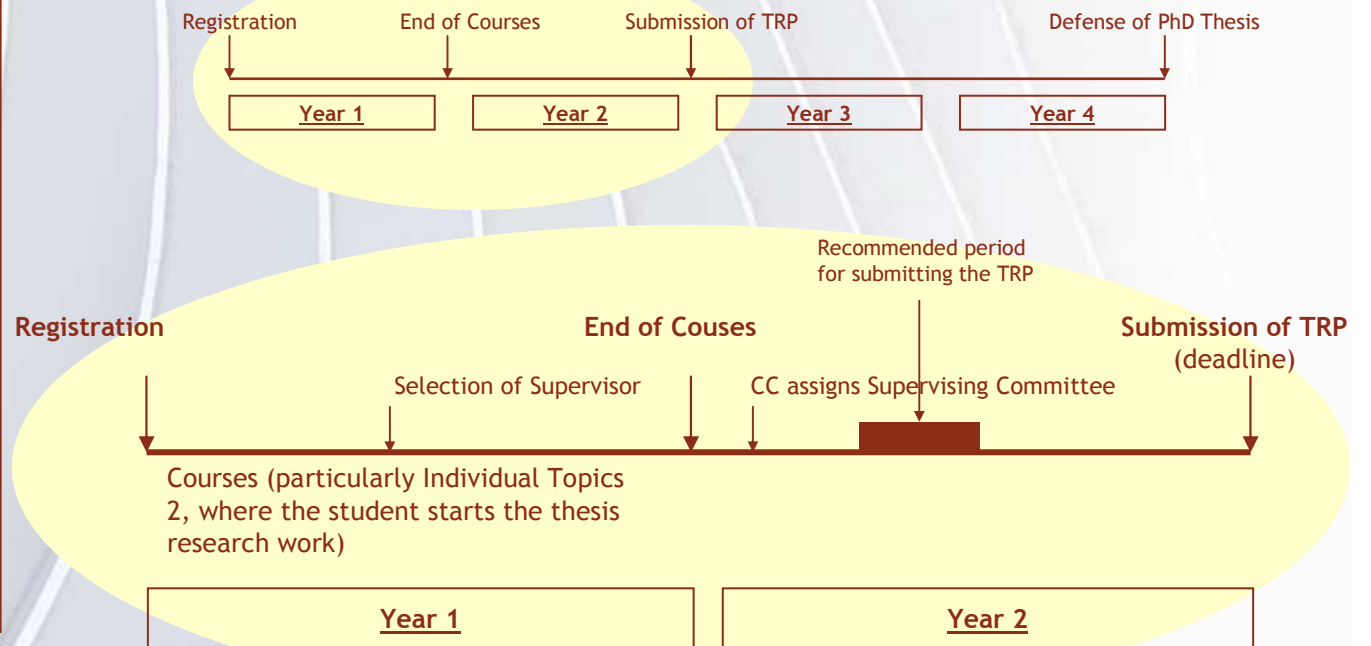
A useful link is in: Guidelines for writing a thesis proposal
http://www.anth.ubc.ca/Guidelines_for_Writing_a_Thesi.1187.0.html

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The TRP in the programme

A general view to the programme:



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How to write a thesis proposal

http://www.ldeo.columbia.edu/~martins/sen_res/how_to_thesis_proposal.html

University of Columbia

How to write a thesis proposal

<http://www.psu.edu/dept/cew/WritingProposals.doc>

Maastricht University

How to write a thesis proposal

<http://www.fdewb.unimaas.nl/aim/downloads/pdf/How%20to%20write%20a%20thesis%20proposal.pdf>

University of Toronto

Academic proposals

<http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/proposals.html>

University of British Columbia

Guidelines for writing a thesis proposal

http://www.anth.ubc.ca/Guidelines_for_Writing_a_Thesi.1187.0.html