



MA and PhD in Media Studies

The Department of Media Studies at Wits receives a huge number of enquiries about postgraduate study. Our department is relatively small and our supervision capacity is limited. In order to ascertain whether or not we can offer supervision for your proposed research, we ask that you write up a 'pre-proposal' (also known as an 'expression of interest') outlining the proposed topic of your MA or PhD research. This should be between one and two pages and should give a clear idea of the project you intend to work on.

Outline for an MA/PhD expression of interest

Working title:

Try to make it both broad and focused, and to suggest the most important questions related to your project.

Aim:

What do you intend to do/achieve in the study? What are you looking at and what do you hope to discover about it?

Motivation:

Why do you think this study is worth undertaking? What are the theoretical, political social, cultural and communication issues that it raises? What are you adding to existing debates? Your expression of interest will be strengthened if you can show that you are familiar with key scholarly literature in the field.

Research questions:

What research questions arise? List three to four open-ended questions that will help you to perform that work you plan to undertake.

Methodology:

What approach are you considering for examining the research questions? You may wish to broadly outline whether you prefer a qualitative, quantitative or mixed-methods approach. You should discuss at least one possible methodological approach, and show some familiarity with best-practice in that tradition.

Please keep in mind that potential supervisors will use this document to decide whether or they wish to work with you. In order to complete a research degree you need to be proficient in both academic conventions and writing in English, so it's in your interest to ensure that your pre-proposal is well-written and appropriately referenced.