# Guildhall School Doctoral Research Programme: Research proposal template

The purpose of the research proposal is to persuade us that your research will generate new insights in your chosen field of study, through appropriately rigorous research. Although your proposal is not ‘set in stone’, the best proposals are focused and specific. A good proposal will also demonstrate that you already have some expertise in the area – and that you’re passionate about it.

Proposals will be assessed on the following criteria:

• The originality, rigour and significance of the proposed project

• Skills, experience and characteristics required to pursue that project

• Alignment of the project with areas of supervisory expertise

• The candidate’s preparedness for doctoral study

**Subject area**

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| *Please tell us the broad discipline into which your research fits e.g. piano performance, composition, theatre, actor training* |

**Proposed project title**

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**Context**

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| *Please provide a short overview of the field you are researching. This should evidence that what you are seeking to discover has not already been substantially researched. You should refer to key publications and, where relevant, artistic practice and policy on this topic. Be as specific as possible in identifying influences or debates you wish to engage with. [around 500 words referring to at least two peer-reviewed publications and, if relevant, two examples of practice]* |

**Aims and research questions**

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| *What do you aim to discover by doing your research? What new insights do you want to generate? [around 200 words]* |

**Research design and methodology**

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| *What do you plan to do in order to make these discoveries? Some common research methods include:*   1. *Artistic research such as composing music in response to professional or self-commissions; making theatrical performances or installations; learning to play a specific repertoire and giving one or public performances; observing and reflecting on your own professional practice; developing new approaches to artistic creation or teaching and testing them on yourself or others* 2. *Research in the social world, for example, observing people participating in a particular activity; immersion in a particular culture or environment, conducting surveys, focus groups and interviews; setting up experiments involving other people as 'test subjects'* 3. *Critical analysis (essential to all doctoral projects) of a particular body of research literature; examples of artistic or other professional practice; archival material such as documents or objects* 4. *Show that you have anticipated potential issues of access, validity or ethics*   *You should also outline any resource implications that you anticipate at this stage. Please note that access to practice spaces and opportunities to collaborate with other students cannot be guaranteed.*  *[max 500 words]* |

**Outcomes**

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| *Summarise what new insights, data or perspectives will be produced as a result of your research. How will these discoveries contribute to research and/or practice in your chosen area? Explain why it is important, and for what communities. [max 200 words]* |

**You as a researcher**

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| *What experience, skills, perspectives do you bring to the project?* |

**Bibliography**

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| *This should demonstrate that you have a good sense of the existing literature that is relevant to your project. Include all the sources you reference in the proposal. If you would like to add others, put them under a separate heading (e.g. ‘additional sources’).* |