



About the Research Plan

How to Prepare Your Tentative Research Plan

First and foremost, a prerequisite for doctoral and post-doctoral mobility scholarships is that the Host University has an advisor that is willing and interested in working with you. Even a brilliantly structured Research Plan will have to be rejected if no Host University is capable of working with you on your research. Please ask your potential advisor to fill out the “PHD-Post-Doc Letter of Support”, scan it, and email it back to you as early as possible. It is recommended that you send this letter to your potential advisor(s) at least six weeks before the application deadline.

The next step is to fill out the Research Plan. The most important section of the Research Plan is the research section itself. It is important to develop a Research Theme that succinctly summarizes the general topic of your research endeavors.

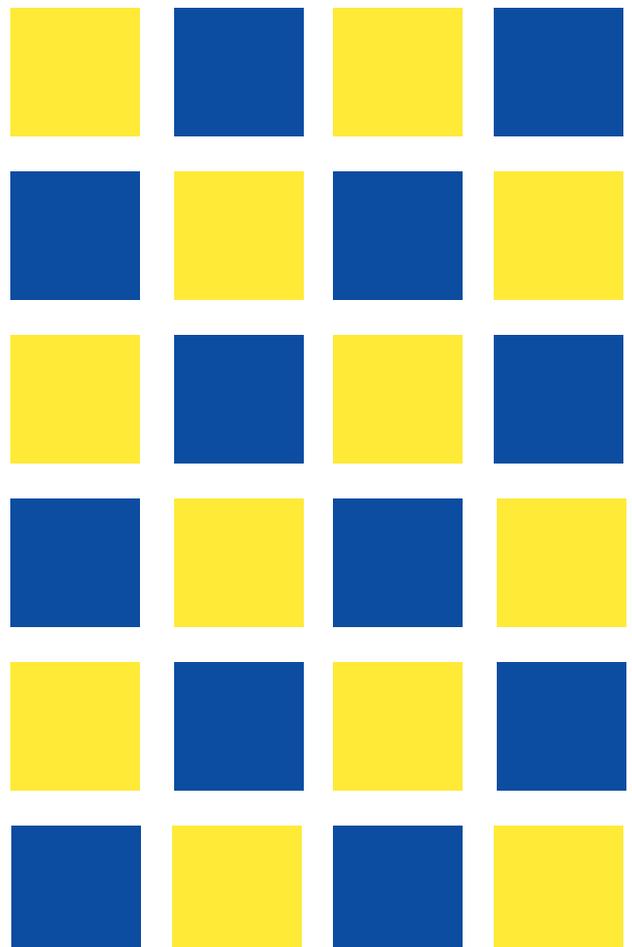
The Research Objectives themselves should be listed in a bulleted list and follow a logical progression. It should demonstrate that the applicant has a clear understanding of the ideal outcomes of his/her research period. Additionally, it should be understandable to audiences that are not specialists in your field of expertise.

Finally, you will elaborate on the Research Objectives in the Detailed Description section. This section serves the purpose of explaining your rationale for wanting to conduct research, further describing the objectives of your research, and explaining the competencies that you’ll acquire through a mobility opportunity.

Aims and Content of the Research Plan

The Research Plan serves the purpose of clarifying the applicant’s intended research aims and objectives. Prior to developing a Research Plan, it is highly recommended that applicants initiate contact with their Host Universities to find advisors that are interested in collaborating with them in their research/academic pursuits.

A well developed Research Plan contributes to a competitive application. It distinguishes carefully thought out, logical research objectives from broad and/or vague objectives. It also serves as a guide for the student him/herself by helping the student to visualize and specify his/her goals.



Visual Guide

The following are examples of a PhD/Post-Doctoral applicant's Research Plan. Your descriptions should be more detailed. The contents of this example document are merely to demonstrate how a complete Research Plan should look.

Doctoral/Post-Doctoral Research Plan

Personal Information

Surname: Doe

First Name: John

Field of Study: Sociology

Doctoral **Post-Doctoral**

Institutional Information

Sending Institution (Home University): University of Universityland

Country: Imaginarica

Receiving Institution (Host University): Studyhard University

Country: Studyland

Research Theme: *The general topic/title of your intended research area goes here*

Research Objectives: *A bulleted list of your concrete research objectives.*

Detailed Description of Planned Research Objectives (500 words maximum):

In this section, please elaborate on the bulleted list in the "Research Objectives" section. This is the applicant's chance to explain his/her objectives in much greater detail. In some cases, not all objectives will be able to be discussed. In such cases, please cover the objectives most important to your research.

I hereby declare that I am aware of and comply with the ethics issues related to undertaking research within European programs - http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ethics_en.html - [ethics_cl](#)

Candidate's Name: John Doe

Candidate's Signature: *John Doe*

Date: 14/8/2013

Place: Imaginarica