Prospective POGO PhD Proposal

As part of your application, you are required to prepare a PhD research proposal. The proposal can be used in part to:
- Assess the merits of your application (for general acceptance and scholarships where relevant),
- The fit of your research topic to POGO, Crawford and the ANU.
- Guide you in your studies. Don't worry though - the proposal is non-binding and often students revise their proposal when they commence their studies.

In preparing your proposal to undertake your PhD in POGO at Crawford, please consider including:

Title
- A precise and informative description of the project.

Viability During COVID-19
- All applicants should include a section in their application detailing the viability of their project in the context of COVID restrictions. This section should either
  o (a) explain how the project is not dependent on travel and/or fieldwork and therefore feasible regardless of restrictions in these domains; or
  o (b) provide a 12-month plan outlining how the project will proceed if the current restrictions on fieldwork and travel continue.
- Applicants should discuss the viability of their research project under COVID restrictions with their proposed supervisors prior to submitting the application.

Introduction:
- Context as to set the scene as to why the research matters
- State the overall aims of your research
- A clearly focused statement of the overall purpose of the proposed research (ie, why is it important?)

Research questions &/or hypotheses
- The questions that the proposed research will address and/or the hypotheses that will be tested.

Review of relevant literature
- What is the current state of play in your topic area?
- What gaps are in this literature that you can address?
- Define any key terms/concepts you are drawing on
- You need to demonstrate that are aware of the wider literature published internationally and your research can be engaged with the on-going debates. Therefore, you need to provide a preliminary review of the key research that has already been carried out in the field and identification of the gaps in the literature that the proposed research aims to fill.

Proposed methods

- An explanation of what *type of data* will be required to answer the research questions, or test the hypotheses and how the data will be *collected and analysed*.
- Do include some comment on the feasibility of the project. Consider noting if you have any relevant skills or networks to help access the data needed. If not (and it is ok if not!), how will you acquire these skills and access (for example, through undertaking the compulsory methods coursework etc)?

Contribution
- What is the contribution you are trying to make with your research? This may be a contribution to the literature, methods and/or policy.

Timetable
- An indication of how the research will be carried out over the duration of a full-time (3 years for PhD) or part-time (6 years for PhD) candidature.

Resources
- An indication of the funding that will be required over the course of the candidature (eg, for fieldwork) as well any special materials or training that may be necessary for the successful completion of the project.

Institutional fit
- A statement on why POGO is suitable for your project and an indication of potential supervisors/advisors.

Reference list
- Include here a bibliography of any literature you have cited in the proposal.

Proposals at Crawford can be between 5-10 pages and usually 7-8 pages in length. Please take the above structure as a suggestion only. We also understand that some projects may be best presented in a different structure. For this reason, we encourage applicants to develop their proposal in consultation with their prospective supervisors.