

Assignment 2: research proposal – 20% of the course grade

Main points:

- Each person will choose a relevant topic and research question for writing a 10-12 pages research design.
- You should find a gap in the literature and clearly state how your research design will contribute to filling it.
- All the components of the research design should be concrete, based in the real world, and feasible to be studied / implemented with enough resources.

Note: there are examples from last year in Moodle.

There are three different deliverables:

1. **Idea for research design – due 9th of March 23:59. Not graded.**
2. **First draft for research design – due 4th of April 23:59. 10% of the course grade.**
3. **Final draft for research design – due 12th of May 23:59. 10% of the course grade.**

Objective

General: the core objective of this course is for you to learn to understand high-quality level scientific research on development economics and to use it to guide policymaking, as qualified advisors. The tasks are structured such that working on them helps you to progress towards this final objective.

For this assignment: the main objective is for you to creatively think about a research design, learning along the way the core elements of innovative, high-quality research.

The main characteristics for each deliverable:

Idea for research design:

Briefly describe the topic and the research idea, the identified gap in the literature (few references) and how you plan to contribute to filling it with your research design. Briefly comment on the feasibility of the study – 2 – 3 pages.

First draft of the research:

A first full draft of the research design, with the main objective of getting feedback. Advised sections (flexible):

- Introduction, can be divided into motivation, literature review and research questions.
- The context.
- Theory: if relevant.
- Methodology.
 - o Data / the sample.
 - o Experimental design, if relevant.

- Estimation strategy.
- Feasibility and limitations.
- Policy implications and conclusion.
- References.

Final draft:

The main objective of the final draft is to incorporate the feedback received from the initial draft. Typically, you will have to incorporate more references.

Conditions

- You must cite any references used.
- AI can be used as a tool to assist in finding references and improving writing, but your analysis, reasoning, and structure must be your own.

Relevant factors to consider when developing the assignments.

- Use relevant examples to get inspired and facilitate your work.
- Working on your own research design can be a factor motivating curiosity for the research presented in lectures – relating what you others have done to what you might be doing will likely improve your performance in the research design and the learning from lectures.
- Feel free to send me an email or ask to meet whenever you think this could be useful.