

PART I: PREPARATION OF SYNOPSIS

The synopsis for a graduate programme can be divided into following sections.

1. Title

It should be comprehensive to reflect the main contents and subjects of the research plan to be undertaken by the student.

2. Abstract

The abstract must be written in a single paragraph. This section must start with the first 2-3 sentences about the importance and the rationale of studies, salient field and analytical methodologies, methods and types of data collection, statistical treatment of data, results and finally a concluding statement about findings.

3. Need of the Project

This section must contain statement(s) on the general subject, the orientation, setting, and foundation, on which the investigations were made, but it is not and should not be made a general literature review. The objective and rationale of studies must be described. The purpose of introduction is to orient the readers. It should contain a statement of the problem to be investigated so that the reader(s) can proceed with the nature and purpose of research in mind. It should overview briefly the scope, aims and general characters of the research.

There is a tendency to use “Need of the Project or Introduction” as a second window for “Review of Literature” with the incorporation of several citations. This is a duplication of the scope and purpose of a subsequent section, the “Review of Literature”. It is, therefore, desirable that “Need of the Project” should provide a general account of a particular topic on which one has to embark upon.

4. Review of Literature

This is an important section. Before writing this portion, the student should search for relevant research articles from different sources, like library, scientific journals, data bases, internet, major supervisor, senior students and others actively working in his/her selected area/topic of studies. But the student must be critical in selection of relevant

research papers, their review and integration. It is recommended that student(s) must study at least 15-20 original research papers before starting writing of synopsis and must have copies of such papers with them.

5. Materials and Methods

This section should contain elaborative experimental methods, analytical procedures and statistical techniques to be followed, each supported with appropriate and authenticated literature citations, Name-Year system (see thesis section). One aspect which is mostly overlooked is the discussion with a statistician at the planning stage of experiment which otherwise is highly required and very helpful for the students and supervisors. Another aspect worth to consider is the research facilities available in the department of the student, university or any other sister institute from where the requirements could be met.

6. References

An alphabetical order be followed, details of which are given in part II — section pertaining to thesis preparation. An acceptable format of synopsis is shown on the next page. However, students are advised to consult GS 7 from time to time changes in rules and regulation by the statutory bodies of the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad.

When the synopsis is at semi-final stage, students defend it in an open seminar at university level. After incorporation of discussed and agreed suggestions in the seminar, the synopsis is to be signed by the student, supervisory committee and other statutory bodies, like Chairperson of the department, Director of the institute, Dean of the faculty. Then it is presented in the office of the Director Advance Studies for final approval from the Advanced Studies and Research Board (ASRB). Student(s) may consult the document titled GS-7 for help and guidelines as amended from time to time by the university.

Three sample pages are given next to specify the format of synopsis.