

**MASTERS DEGREE RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL**

For entry into a 120-point Masters degree, your thesis proposal must be approved by the School of Medical Sciences Masters Advisory Committee (SMS-MAC), which has representatives from departments within SMS, the School of Medicine, the School of Biological Sciences and the Liggins Institute.

The committee’s main role is to ensure that: *i.* the project contains sufficient work for a 120-point thesis, *ii.* the aims can be achieved over a 12-month period, full-time (or 24 months part-time), *iii.* all ethical and safety approvals are in place before you start, *iv*. the appropriate level of supervision is being provided, and *v*. when appropriate, the project is sufficiently resourced.

If these criteria are fulfilled, the committee will recommend that the project is approved. If they are not, the committee may seek clarification from you and/or your supervisor prior to final programme approval.

***How to write the proposal*:**

1. Please write the proposal for a *general science audience,* as the committee members may not be experts in your thesis topic. Please avoid technical jargon and acronyms and keep to the suggested space limits.
2. Please save the form as follows: SURNAME\_Firstname\_Sem1\_2024
3. Once you and your supervisor are satisfied with the project proposal, please upload the proposal through this link:

<https://www.forms.auckland.ac.nz/en/public/fmhs/sms-masters-thesis-proposal.html>

1. You should receive an email confirming that the proposal has been uploaded.

For any queries, please contact Hashinika Abeygunasekera ([hashinika.abeygunasekera@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:hashinika.abeygunasekera@auckland.ac.nz))

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| Student Name: | ID: |
| Project Title: | |
| Project Aim(s) Please provide a brief summary of the hypothesis / research question(s) to be tested | |
| Background (up to 1 page)  Please provide a brief summary of the background to the hypothesis/research question | |
| **Research proposal** (1-2 pages)  Please provide:   * a summary of the proposed study/experimental design * details of the methods/techniques that you plan to undertake in this work and, where appropriate, alternative plans if problems were to arise | |
| Timeline: please provide a timeline (e.g. table, Gantt chart, flow chart) for the proposed work. Include time for thesis preparation and participation in conferences etc. (note: this will be used as a guide to assess your progress in a mid-year review). | |
| Additional information (optional): Please provide any information or considerations that may be relevant to the project not covered in the sections above. | |
| **COVID-19 contingency plan:** PLEASE PROVIDE A CONTINGENCY PLAN IN THE EVENT OF COVID-19 LOCKDOWNS | |