The Graduate School of the University of Vaasa

**GUIDELINES FOR WRITING A RESEARCH PLAN**

The applicants should follow these guidelines when structuring their research plan. Additionally, they need to write a one-page summary of the research plan. The research plan should include the following:

**1. The title of the PhD thesis**

**2. Background and objectives**

* the research objectives and central delimitations in the scope of research
* the novelty value of the research
* Previous research related to the topic and how the thesis is connected to it
* Information as to which university research group the thesis is connected and how the research is connected to the themes in the research group

**3. Research methods, material and ethical questions**

* research methods that have been used so that it is evident how they contribute to answering the research question / proving the hypotheses or supporting the chosen perspective
* research material
* ethical questions related to the methods and materials (for example the ethicality of the method, informed consent of the object of study, protecting the anonymity of the object of study)
* central literature or bibliography

**4. Realisation of the thesis**

* research timetable
* funding of studies and PhD research