

PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE IN ENGINEERING (PDEng)

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

This document summarises the organisational problem domain and proposed solution process as initially envisaged by the PDEng candidate. It is recognised that the solution is not completely predictable and cannot be entirely prescribed in advance but the main purpose of this proposal is to indicate the nature of the problem and the avenues the candidate has been considering in determining a solution.

NAME OF CANDIDATE:

PRELIMINARY PDEng TITLE:

DATE:

APPLICANT SIGNATURE:

1. ORGANISATIONAL PROBLEM DOMAIN

(max 1 page)

Briefly describe the organisational domain that the work is addressing, provide some background for the problem for example: how widespread is it, is it a recent issue, what is the impact? Can you state a research problem or pose a research question?

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE/PRIOR SOLUTION ATTEMPTS

(max 12 pages)

Identify relevant research or practitioner literature which has sought to address the problem. Students should conduct a short review of the relevant academic and practitioner literature including a minimum of 10 references. Also include any previous organisational initiatives in the area. The literature review should be coherent; it should be structured around an overall framework not simply presented as a list of what different authors have contributed to the problem domain. It should critique the existing literature and identify gaps in the current knowledge.

3. PROPOSED SOLUTION INCLUDING EXPECTED BENEFITS

(max 6 pages)

Outline possible approaches to solve the problem and the expected benefits to your organisation/industry, and their relation to the literature indicated in Section 2. Highlight the risks associated with the solutions, and identify the most appropriate candidate methods that could be used and what bodies of knowledge (both literature and available industry data) that you will draw from.

4. NOVELTY

(max 1 page)

What is novel about this work, why does it qualify as a Doctorate?

5. PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

(max 2 pages)

Include a summary of the work that needs to be done to solve the problem. Provide a rough estimate of the initial schedule for the proposed work with deliverables and milestones. Bear in mind that your work may consist of several interrelated projects, in this case show how each project will relate to the others and how they will build to make a significant contribution to the knowledge in your profession and also the interim deliverables from each sub-project.