

## HOW TO WRITE AN IGGI PROPOSAL

Your research proposal is one of the main documents that are going to determine how successful you are at your IGGI application. We understand this may be daunting, especially if you haven't written a research statement like this before. In order to make things easier for you, we have provided a template, which should help you communicate your ideas to us in the clearest way. Additionally, we've got a set of general tips on how to write such proposals, and we have included them all in this document.

### Content

- Be clear and succinct. Respect the page count and word limits specified in the template.
- Be ambitious but realistic with the aims you set for your proposal, which should be achievable within the period of your PhD research.
- Make sure you explain clearly *why* your objectives are *important* (beyond being "interesting"), why *now* the right time to address them, and why *you* are well-placed to address them.
- Assume that not everyone who reviews your proposal is an expert in your field of research. Write so that even non-experts understand what you want to do and why it is valuable
- Avoid plagiarism: make sure you cite and acknowledge all work that you used to write your proposal.

### Style

- Information should be written in short and concise paragraphs, rather than in long blocks of text.
- The same applies for sentences: avoid long and convoluted phrases. Concepts explained in simple sentences are always easier to understand.
- Not surprisingly, the same happens with titles. Avoid long titles that will be hard to remember.
- Keep your presentation clear and tidy. Use images and diagrams if you think they help convey your ideas better.

### Preparing your IGGI proposal

- Have an exchange of ideas with your potential supervisor and incorporate their feedback into your proposal.
- **IMPORTANT:** The proposal is *your* work, not your supervisor's. While they may give you feedback, they are expressly *not* allowed to edit or co-author your proposal, nor should you copy-paste any of their text
- Make sure you and your supervisor are aware of the IGGI programme and think how your proposal works well around that.
- Prepare the proposal with plenty of time. Deadlines are strict.

Remember that interview panels see dozens of applications. You definitely want to stand out (in a good way) from all the applicants in order to maximise your chances of being selected.