# DClinRes Application: Guidelines for writing your personal statement

Your personal statement should include an overview of your career developments and goals and your motivation to complete a doctoral programme in clinical research. Please explain how would this programme fit with your work and family commitments. Your personal statement should be up to a maximum of 1000 words.

# DClinRes Application: Guidelines for writing your research outline

As part of the application process you are asked to present an outline of your proposed research project. The purpose of these notes is to give you some guidance as you prepare your outline.

### The research outline

The purpose of the research outline is to enable the programme to understand your research interests and to assess your readiness to undertake doctoral level research. Your outline should demonstrate that you are capable of independent critical thinking and analysis and of communicating your ideas clearly. Secondly, it will enable the programme to be sure that it can provide appropriate supervisory support to help you to complete your research.

Your research outline will not be a fully worked-out proposal. The purpose of the first 2 years of your programme is to help you to refine your ideas for research. Your aims and research questions might change as you progress through the taught part of the programme and your final research project could be different than the one outlined in your application.

### Format for the research outline

The research outline will be a written document of maximum 1000 words (excluding tables and references), and should be written in an appropriate academic style (e.g. APA, Harvard, Vancouver). It should address the following key areas:

### The research area and research question

This section should identify what you want to research with specific reference to the research question, or questions, you will address. You should seek to be as clear and as specific as possible in stating your research aim(s) and answerable research question(s). For example a researcher interested in understand whether a treatment would work, might ask: Does intervention X work with population Y, delivered with Z frequency and at w level.

### Significant prior research

You are not expected to have completed a full literature review but you should identify major research and important theoretical contributions, themes or issues in the area.

### The importance of the research for theory and/or practice

This section addresses the question of whether the research is worth doing and has potential clinical implications. Accordingly, you should indicate concisely why there is a need for the research either from an academic perspective or a professional/practice perspective.

### Your interest in the topic

Any research undertaken at doctoral level will present a manageable challenge and you will be supported to develop your research skills accordingly, and it is important that you have a deep and enduring interest in the focus of the research. Accordingly this section should briefly outline your motivation and interest in undertaking research in the area selected.

### Possible research methodology and feasibility

This section relates to how you intend to conduct the research. It is important to provide an indication of the intended methodology. For example, will a quantitative or mixed methods methodology be appropriate? Will data be obtained using questionnaires, interviews, or will you use existing data? Your research supervisor will help you to make decisions about the appropriate methodological approach for the study.

In addition, you are asked to comment on the feasibility of the proposed study.

### The contribution you wish to make

Doctoral level research should make a contribution to theory and practice in the area that you wish to study. In terms of theory, for example, this could be developing a new model to understand the relationships between variables or developing our understanding of a new phenomenon. With regard to practice, the contribution could be to improve processes in organisations or to develop techniques to help managers. If possible it would be helpful for you to outline what you think would be the contribution of your research.

### Ethical Issues

Are there likely to be any ethical issues associated with your research? If so, how will you address these?

Consider the relevant [principles of the Declaration of Helsinki](https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-declaration-of-helsinki-ethical-principles-for-medical-research-involving-human-subjects/), applying to different research committees, issues of consent and engaging participants, considered in terms of the population you would like to do research with.