



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH  
**informatics**

# Informatics Project Proposal: Tutorial 3: Proposal Structure

INFR11291: Informatics Project Proposal

# Elevator Pitch

Write a 150-word elevator pitch describing your MSc project. Your pitch should be clear enough to explain your work to someone outside your field yet highlight the significance of your research.

# Content (1 mins)

- Compare methodologies/approaches, main findings, and limitations.
- Synthesise literature
- Identify gaps
- Define research questions

# Exercise 1: Compare findings across papers (8 mins)

Pick two papers that focus on the same (or a similar) problem of your project.

For each paper, identify:

- the problem it investigates
- the approach or methodology used
- the main findings
- the limitations

Discussion: Compare and contrast findings  
across papers (5 mins)

Now share your findings with your group/classmates.

## Exercise 2: Synthesizing the literature into a coherent narrative (8 mins)

Based on Exercise 1, write a concise paragraph comparing and contrasting the methodologies/approaches, main findings, and **limitations** relevant to your project.

Refer to Lecture 4, slide 13, and focus only on aspects that directly relate to your own project.

Discussion: Synthesizing the literature into a coherent narrative (5 mins)

Now share your writing with your group/classmates.

## Exercise 3: Peer review of your paragraph (4 mins)

Discuss your key points, focusing on the strengths and limitations you identified in your paragraph.



## Exercise 4: Identifying gaps (5 mins)

Based on the previous exercise, identify what is missing (the gaps) and write a gap statement.

For example:

“Existing research examines/reveals X; however, Y remains unexplored.”

## Discussion: Identifying gaps (5 mins)

Now share your findings with your group/classmates.

## Exercise 5: Drafting Your Research Aim(s) or Question(s) (4 min)

Write a draft of your project main aim or research question(s). Explain how this fills the gap(s).

Example:

The aim of this project is to [main action: investigate, develop, analyze...] [topic/phenomenon]. This addresses the gap in [specific area] identified in previous research, which has not yet [what has not been done]. By doing so, this project will [expected contribution/impact].

# Discussion: Drafting Your Research Aim(s) or Question(s) (3 min)

Now share your findings with your group/classmates.

# Homework: Draft a State-of-the-Art section

Please continue identifying additional relevant papers and then write a State-of-the-Art section based on the papers you have analysed (1-2 pages).

Any questions?