

**DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL AND CLINICAL TECHNOLOGY
CONCEPT DOCUMENT GUIDELINES**

A concept document of your intended research should comprise of the following headings:

<p>1. Title of the study</p> <p>The title guides the research process and the end result or observations. The accuracy and reliability of observations must be in relation to observed facts and the problem at hand as stated in the title. Facts to be studied must be related to the title. The title must be informative, short and not cumbersome. It must clearly describe the purpose of the study, stating precisely what you mean to do, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The assessment of ... ✓ An investigation of ...
<p>2. Background and literature review</p> <p>An introduction that should answer a question; “what is the study about? It must state the research problem <i>i.e.</i> what prompted you to want to do this particular study. Is it informed by what you have observed? Or what you have read about? <i>Etc.</i> It must give the background to the research problem/ interest <i>i.e.</i> what has been published on the research area <i>e.g.</i> statistics/ prevalence rate in the world/ SA/ KZN <i>etc.</i> It must put the problem into context.</p> <p>It must state the significance/ purpose of the study – what is the problem and why is it important to do the study? What will be the expected results and how will the findings contribute to the body of knowledge. What will the benefits of the study be to society?</p> <p>Literature must be reviewed to support the research question/ research topic. It must indicate what has been done/ published on your topic. The literature review must be referenced correctly. The DUT reference guide must be used (obtainable from the Library link on the DUT website). Wikipedia or any non-peer reviewed publication must not be used as a reference.</p>
<p>3. Aim and Objectives</p> <p>The aim and objectives statements must indicate what you hope the research will achieve, what are the objectives for doing the research? Aim and objectives must be written in the future tense e.g. the study will aim to assess/ investigate..... There should be a single aim statement and one or two objectives, numbered 1) and 2).</p> <p>AIM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ It indicates the purpose of the study ▶ What you want to achieve ▶ It is a statement which states the main issue to be described ▶ the exact destination of the study ▶ It uses action verbs ▶ It must be clear, definable and achievable ▶ It aims to answer one or two questions ▶ It is the road to reach the destination in terms of the methods that will be used in the study <p>OBJECTIVE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ It describes how the aim will be achieved ▶ It determine the appropriate methodology to be used ▶ They are usually numbered, if more than one ▶ Individual statements conveying the intentions of the study
<p>4. Methodology</p> <p>Research design - what thoughts do you have about how you would like to answer your research problem? What research design would you like to use? For example, are you thinking of a quantitative descriptive survey or a qualitative study? Include a budget of what finance you will need when doing your study. Data collection process- who will participate in your study and how are you planning to collect data? What ethics principles will you observe when doing your study?</p>