

## **MA Thesis / Major Research Paper Proposals**

The Tri-U History Graduate Program requires that all MA students submit during their second registered semester a research proposal for their thesis or major research project (MRP). Ideally, students should submit this proposal to their advisor *no later* than one week prior to their second semester's progress meeting, to allow time for the advisory committee to read the proposal and provide feedback at the meeting.

Students should consult with their advisor about the format and length of the proposal. If the advisor has no strong preferences as to proposal format, the University of Guelph history department has approved the following guidelines for length and content of the MA proposal.

The proposal should be approximately 3-5 double-spaced pages, in which the student:

- states the central research question or questions of the project
- identifies and briefly discusses the historiography that the project will address
- identifies the major specific primary source materials that will be studied to answer the relevant research question or questions
- outlines the methodology that will be used in the analysis

In addition to this 3-5 page write-up, the proposal should also include a listing of the primary sources to be consulted and a bibliography of the relevant secondary literature.

*Students who would like to consult examples of previously completed MA proposals can request these from the history department's graduate secretary.*