When you apply for research funding you normally use a given template from the funding agency. For the Writing Assignment/Research proposal of the GSLS you will use an adapted version of the NWO Open Competition Domain Science – KLEIN-1, which is intended for a group leader who applies for a PhD student to do a four year research project.

For more information concerning the writing, please see the Master Writing Assignment Guide for students. For the assessment of the research proposal a specifically designed rubric is available. The assessment will not only be on the scientific proposal, but also on the professional attitude of the applicant and the structure and style of the writing, as is customary for other writing assignments.

|  |
| --- |
| **Part A – Applicant** |

**How to fill out this application form?**

This application form consists of two parts. In Part A you fill out the basic details of the applicant and the examiners; only name and affiliation are required. Part B is devoted to the scientific proposal, including abstract, and a layman’s summary. Please adhere to the provided rules when filling out this application form.

1. **Applicant**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name student (initials, first name, last name, student number): |  |
| Affiliation (university/institute + department): | Utrecht University / |
| Name first examiner: |  |
| Affiliation (university/institute + department): |  |
| Name second examiner: |  |
| Affiliation (university/institute + department): |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Part B – Scientific proposal** |

1. **BASIC DETAILS**

Part B.1 covers the basic details of the application. It contains both an abstract suited for your scientific peers and a layman’s summary.

1. **Title**

The title should be clear and concise and represent the content.

1. **Abstract**

The abstract should summarize the proposed research in a maximum of 250 words in a clear way and should be aimed at your scientific peers.

1. **Layman’s summary**

The layman’s summary explains your research proposal to the public in a maximum of 500 words. It can be written in Dutch or English and should be written at high school Biology level.

1. **Keywords**

Use **three** to **five** representative keywords to describe your research proposal. This can aid to quickly understand the broad scope of your proposal.

1. **SCIENTIFIC PROPOSAL**

While drafting your research proposal, keep the assessment criteria from the rubric for proposals of the GSLS in mind. For the assessment of proposals, the basic principle generally is that the proposals must describe in a clear and concise way **what** will be investigated and **why** the proposed research should be carried out (urgency). The GSLS asks for a more extensive introduction of the research topic than customary. A minimum of 5000 words is required for paragraphs B2.1 to B2.5, but the total amount of words should not exceed 7000. Section B2.6. is excluded from the word count.

1. **Research topic (What)**

Include an extensive description of the background (a), leading to the overall aim (b) of the proposal. The aim should be subdivided into several sub-questions/objectives (c) that help answer the overall aim. This part also deals with the scientific originality and/or the innovative approach of the proposed research and investment, including its cutting-edge aspects and/or ground-breaking character.

1. **Approach (How)**

Describe the proposed research (a), i.e. which methods and techniques will be used, and discuss their applicability and accessibility. Include a detailed work plan (b) and indicate the duration of the proposed research.

1. **Feasibility / Risk assessment**

Discuss the feasibility of the research proposal and indicate the possible risks involved with the proposed research, including risks from the methods, techniques, etc. Indicate how these risks can be mitigated and whether an alternative approach (plan B) exists.

Optional: describe how the proposed research and investment fit with the participating researcher(s) and techniques and equipment available in the lab (embedding).

1. **Scientific (a) and societal (b) impact**

Include a perspective on the short and long term impact the proposed research will have on its own research field. Highlight the relevance to other scientific and societal areas. If applicable, give a possible application perspective and describe how the output of the proposed research can lead to new insights and/or technologies in society or industry.

1. **Ethical considerations**

Describe relevant ethical issues concerning your research proposal.

1. **Literature/references**

The list of references should be relevant to the research proposal, cited in the texts of section B.2. The list should not include internal documents (such as master theses).