

<http://www.thesis.com.my>

## **The need for a Thesis Proposal**

You need to start from an approved proposal. You may already have a completed thesis proposal in which case you can use this as your basis for the thesis/dissertation writing. Thesis proposal usually has a word limit of about 1500 or up to 2000 words. Some universities call a preliminary draft of chapter 1 - Introduction, chapter 2 - Literature Review and chapter 3 - Research Methodology as the proposal. In this page and this site, a proposal is referred to the document with a word limit of 2000 words and not the preliminary chapters 1, 2 and 3.

If you do not have a thesis proposal, you need to work out and develop a suitable proposal to meet the academic requirements of your university. The thesis proposal will act as a main guide and structure for your research thesis/dissertation. Upon completing the thesis proposal, you can then look at developing your thesis/dissertation based on the approved thesis proposal.

Remember Pareto analysis? Remember the 80/20 rule? In principle it means: spend 80% of your time on planning for a good research proposal and outline of your thesis/dissertation and spend 20% of your time on thesis writing. With a good proposal, planning and outline of your thesis/dissertation you will be able to reduce rewriting greatly. Otherwise you will effectively end up writing, rewriting and rewriting if you spend only 20% of time planning and 80% time for writing. Rewriting is most painful as you do not know where the changes are and how many places the change affects in the entire thesis.