Research Plan Template, Doctoral Programme in Business and Technology Management

1. **Title** *(describes your thesis topic and research question)*
   
   Research Plan
   Researcher’s name
   Date

2. **Abstract** *(max. 150 words)*

3. **Introduction** *(max. 1 page)*
   
   What is your research subject and what is its position inside the research field?
   
   Research background and justification: Challenges and relevance. Describe how your subject relates to the rest of the world, what are the key drivers within the scope of the subject and how does your subject relate to them. If you are aiming for a completely new breakthrough, describe it. How does your topic connect to the industry, society, etc.

4. **Literature review** *(state-of-the-art) (max. 3 pages)*
   
   A brief literature review on your topic: What is already known, what is not known and why is the topic relevant. Use the previous research and literature to justify your arguments and make the research gap visible. Structure the text into logical subsections, using second-level headings. Use pictures, if necessary. Most important: Certify the novelty value of the work (answering the question: has this been previously studied in the scientific community?).

5. **Research objectives and questions**
   
   What is the research objective?
   
   Describe the nature of the research, what new information are you going to bring to the research field. Divide your research task into 2-4 research questions, to clarify content, feasibility and relevance.

6. **Research strategy and methodology** *(max. 1 page)*
   
   The research data and access to it
   
   Research methodology - in line with the research objective and approach. Remember a critical attitude towards the methodology. Introduce alternative methods of task solution. Explain, why you are choosing this specific methodology.
   
   Data collection, level and unit of analysis

7. **Research environment and partners**
   
   Responsible supervisor, co-supervisor(s), possible follow-up group and possible research group Companies, other universities etc.

8. **Internationality and plan for internationalization**
   
   For example, international partners such as the designated scientific community(s) of the research field or plans for research exchange. Explain how your research benefits from internationality.

9. **Research schedule** *(approx. ½ pages)*
   
   A rough research timetable set out on a quarterly or half-year basis. Take as a starting point the form of the thesis: as a general rule, we recommend the so-called compendium or article thesis. The schedule should then show the articles and their approx. completion date. The schedule of a monograph thesis mostly structures according to the main research tasks.
Take into account whether you are going to work on your degree full-time or part-time. Also consider your study plan: full-time students are expected to finish their theoretical studies in 2 years, part-time students in 3 years.

Full-time students should complete their doctorate degree in 4-5 years, part-time students in 6 to 8 years. The licentiate degree takes about 3-5 years.

In your schedule consider at least: preparation, literature search and analysis, data collection and analysis, manuscript editing, thesis examination process (pre-examination, possible corrections, public defence; 6-12 months). Take into account the actual requirements of each task. Visualize your schedule, e.g. in a line chart.

If you are planning to be a part-time student, also consider and include study leave from your job. You will need intensive study time especially for data analysis as well as for manuscript editing. Be realistic and take into account your actual resources for doing your research.

10. Financing
   A rough estimate on how you plan to finance your doctoral studies.
   For full-time students, we recommend a job contract of at least 3 years length.
   If you study on a part-time basis, does your employer support your studies e.g. financially or by granting study leave(s)?
   Part-time students should reserve weekly time for studies to be able to work steadily on the research. Additional study leave should be organized at least twice, for data analysis and thesis editing.

11. Bibliography
   List of the literature mentioned in part 4.