Research Plan Guideline, Doctoral Programme in Business and Technology Management

The research plan must include the following sections. Write using font size 11 or 12 (headings font size 14 and 12), line spacing 1-1.5. Make good use of literature and refer to the sources following good scientific practices. If needed, split the section to subsections using second-level headings and use illustrative pictures and tables. The usual length for research plans in the field of business and technology management in the application phase is 7-10 pages.

Frontpage
Title (which describes the essential content of your work)
Research Plan
Researcher’s name
Date

Abstract
Justify your research topic, present your objectives and research implementation shortly. Are you going to write a monograph or a compilation dissertation (/licentiate thesis)? (max. 150 words)

1. Introduction (about 1 page)
Describe your research topic, its background, justification, and the research problem. Position the research related to earlier research and to societal/industrial context.
Present your key objectives – what do you want to achieve and how do you contribute with your research – and the research questions.
Describe the main scope delimitations – what the thesis will include and what do you intentionally exclude.

2. Literature review (about 3 pages)
Present the key concepts of the research and the entity they form together.
Characterize what is already known about your research topic, what is not known, and why is the topic relevant.
Identify and justify the need for research/research gap and introduce the possibility to create new knowledge.

3. Research objectives and methodology (about 2 pages)
Present and justify your research design. Mention the research objects (if they are already known).
Describe and justify your research methods, research data and ways of collecting data.
If you are going to write a compilation dissertation, include a preliminary article plan with sought-after publication channels, if possible.

4. Research environment and internationalization (about 1 page)
Responsible supervisor and possible research group, how the work is connected to its activities.
Research objects and collaboration partners, such as companies, other organizations (data collection), other groups, partner universities etc.
Nominate the international partners such as research communities or other research groups, if you have already considered them. Characterize your aims for international collaboration within your research. If you have planned a researcher exchange, tell about it.

5. Research schedule and funding (about 1 page)
A rough research timetable set out on a quarterly or half-year basis based on the thesis type, e.g., as a table. For a compilation thesis, include the articles and their approximate timing in the schedule. For a monograph thesis, structure the schedule according to the main research tasks. In your schedule consider the detailed planning, literature search and analysis, data collection, data analysis, manuscript editing, manuscript checks and corrections, finalizing the thesis and thesis examination process (pre-examination, possible corrections, public defence; 6-12 months).
Full-time doctoral students are expected to finish their theoretical studies in 2 years and complete their doctoral degree in 4 years. Part-time doctoral students are expected to finish their theoretical studies in 3 years and complete their doctoral degree in 6 to 8 years. The schedule goal for a licentiate degree is correspondingly 2 or 4 years.

If you are planning to be a part-time doctoral student, also plan possible study leaves from your paid job. You will need intensive study time especially for data analysis as well as for manuscript drafting and finalizing. Be realistic and take into account your actual resources for doing your research.

As a funding plan, introduce a rough estimate of how you plan to finance your doctoral studies. For example, tell if you work in a research project or in a teaching task which enables doing research. For full-time doctoral students, we recommend a job contract of at least 3 years in length, which implies a need to prepare for applying grants for the last fourth year. If you plan to study on a part-time basis, tell who is your employer and how your employer supports your research (e.g., financially or by granting study leaves). Part-time doctoral students should constantly reserve weekly time for studies, and this should be planned. Additionally, it is good to prepare for applying for grants, because they enable releasing time for the dissertation work.

6. Bibliography
List of the literature utilized in the plan according to good academic citation practices and using a consistent style.