# Methodology Chapter Template[[1]](#footnote-1)

This chapter of the thesis should outline the design and methodology of your research. The basis for the choice of research method should be whether it will help you answer your research question(s). Not all of the components listed below will be relevant to every thesis, but they provide a useful starting point.

In the introduction you should give an overview of what is to be included in this chapter. For example:

This chapter describes the design adopted by this research to achieve the aims and objectives stated in Chapter 1 [if you wish, you can restate those objectives]. This chapter discusses the methodology [to be] used in the study, the stages by which the methodology was [will be] implemented, and the research design; section 1.2 details the participants in the study; section 1.3 lists all the instruments [to be] used in the study and justifies their use; section 1.4 outlines the procedure [to be] used and the timeline for completion of each stage of the study; section 1.5 discusses how the data was [will be] analysed; finally, section 1.6 discusses the ethical considerations of the research and its [potential] problems and limitations.

## Methodology and Research Design

### Methodology

Discuss the methodology [to be] used in your study (e.g., experimental, quasi-experimental, correlational, casual-comparative, survey, discourse, case study, analysis, action research). If using stages, outline them here. The methods used must link explicitly to the research question and must be suited to the nature of the question. Discuss any methodological assumptions.

### Research Design

Outline the research design (e.g., quantitative, qualitative). If quantitative, spell out the independent, dependent and classificatory variables (and sometimes formulate an operational statement of the research hypothesis in null form so as to set the stage for an appropriate research design permitting statistical inferences). If qualitative, explain and support the approach taken and briefly discuss the data gathering procedures that were [will be] used (observations, interviews, etc.)

## Participants

Give details of who were [will be] the participants in your study (including, if applicable, sample type and size, reasons for the number selected and the basis for selection).

## Instruments

List and briefly describe all the instruments (e.g., tests, measures, surveys, observations, interviews, questionnaires, artefacts) [to be] used in your study for data collection and discuss their theoretical underpinnings, that is, justify why you used [will be using] these instruments. So that the line of argument is not broken, it is useful to place copies of instruments in Appendices to which this section can refer.

## Procedure and Timeline

Outline the procedure across and within the techniques [to be] used in your study for collecting and recording data. This could include how, when (in what order) and where the instruments were [will be] administered (for example, field, classroom or laboratory procedures, instructions to participants or distribution of materials) and how the data was [will be] recorded. Include the rationale for the procedures used. If the study was [is to be] done in stages, give a timeline for the completion of each stage.

## Analysis

Discuss how the data was [will be] processed and analysed (e.g., statistical analysis, discourse analysis). This section needs to link the analysis of the research to the methods and demonstrate why this is the best approach to analysis. For qualitative research, justification needs to be provided for methods such as coding and dealing with divergent data. For quantitative research, justification of the choice of statistics and the expected results that they will provide [confirmation document] should be described. There should be enough detail for the reader to replicate the analysis. For example, “NVivo or SPSS will be used” is not adequate. Rather, the approach to coding, including how categories were [will be] derived and validated, how the data was [will be] structured, and specific analytical techniques applied, should be included.

## Ethics and Limitations

Outline the ethical considerations of the research and any [potential] problems and limitations (weaknesses), as well as any [anticipated or actual] threats to the validity of the results.

1. Adapted/Taken from [QUT thesis template document](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjL463GssTsAhW-6nMBHQp-DHkQFjAJegQIAxAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fcms.qut.edu.au%2F__data%2Fassets%2Fword_doc%2F0019%2F427051%2Fthesis_template_numbered.dotx&usg=AOvVaw2YvriNC0qLCXfHglJN7DOT). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)