FP002 – Observation and Research in the Language Classroom

Assignment

The assignment consists of completing **the Initial Proposal (D1)** of the final master's or postgraduate degree project. The submission must be done through the *Panal* on the official date of delivery of the evaluation activities of the subject (see the calendar on the Virtual Campus). During the course period, more detailed information will be provided by the teaching staff.

In order to prepare the Initial Proposal, the student must follow the instructions below:

General instructions

This Initial Proposal should be presented in **4 to 5 pages**. Longer or shorter documents will not be corrected. Students are advised to keep the headings for the sections and substitute the blue text for the relevant information.

This file must be named according to the following model:

*GroupName’sinitialSurnames\_InitialProp*

For instance, a student named *Jan Torres Ruiz* from group 2012-02 would name this file as follows:

***2012-02JTorresRuiz\_InitialProp***

Proposals that do not follow these instructions will not be corrected.

The Initial Proposal must be approved by the Final Project supervisor for students to proceed with further submissions (Advance 1).

1. **Program:**

[Name of the program the student is enrolled in]

1. **Personal and academic information**:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Student Name:** | **Group:** |
|  |  |
| **Email address:** | **Date:** |
|  |  |

1. **Final Project Supervisor:**

[Name of the Final Project Supervisor you have been assigned]

1. **Title and topic of the Final Project:**

[Please specify a provisional title for your Project and describe the topic you aim to focus on in two or three lines]

[When choosing a topic for this Project, bear in mind the following recommendations:

1. Completing a Project of this kind is not an easy task, particularly in distance learning: expect frequent moment of disappointment and frustration. Therefore, it is essential for students to choose a topic which is particularly motivating and within their range of professional and/or academic interests. Vinculation will help the student to face critical moments and will decrease the risk of giving up.
2. It is also important to choose a topic with easily available source materials and references. Any worthy academic work must be based on a sound theoretical background. Therefore, the student should be able to access all the necessary bibliography on the topic.
3. Last, the topic must be specific enough and well-defined. **Students should bear in** mind that they are working on Master’s Final Project, not on a PhD thesis, and that they are different in scope. Usually, learners are not aware of the amount of work a project of this nature involves and, driven by their initial enthusiasm and motivation, they try to cover too broad a field when they start, instead of concentrating on one specific aspect. Experience tells us that this is one of the main reasons why students give up. They feel overcome with the huge task ahead of them and stop working.

Most students who succeed in completing their Project have taken into consideration all these aspects from the very beginning].

1. **Justification of academic and personal interest of the topic:**

[Why do you want to do research on this topic?]

[To what extent will this Project contribute to the chosen topic? Which potential readers will it help?]

[Why do you want to finish this Project and what do you expect to achieve from the results?]

1. **Type of Final Project:**

[Choose an option and tick the corresponding box. The Final Project can be classroom-oriented or research-oriented. It can also combine both approaches, as in Action Research Projects.

 a) Research

 b) Action Research

 c) Material Analysis

 d) Material Design

 e) Material Analysis and Design

 f) Action Research and Material Design

 g) Course Design

 h) Syllabus Design

1. **Research question**

[This section only applies to students who have chosen option A, research or option b, action research. Other types of Final Project must not include it.]

[Please, specify the research questions that fueled this project. This research question will usually define the aims of the study which will be detailed in the following question.]

1. **Aims of the study:**

[The aims of the study must be written using infinitive verbs. Besides, these verbs must be operative, imply action and:

* Include the individuals who will carry out the tasks.
* Indicate what will be investigated, analyzed or designed.
* Explain why and what for the Final Project is carried.

The following verbs are often used: to investigate, to study, to set, to design, to create, to analyze, to search, to discover, and so on.

Besides, the verbs used to describe the aims of the Final Project must specify actions which are feasible within the project time limitations. For instance, the verb “to implement” involves observing results and validating them and will most likely exceed a reasonable time framework. Another example is “to contribute”, which does not clarify the limits of the aim and rests ambiguous, unless it is framed within a clear state of the art or theoretical background. All in all, action verbs in the aims of the study must be objective, measurable and verifiable within the Final Project deadlines.]

* **Main aim of the Project:**

[The main objective of the Final Project is usually broad, reflects the main purpose of the Project and describes what the author will do. An example could be:

“To analyze metacognitive strategies development through the elaboration of a portfolio”].

* **Specific aims:**

[Specific objectives reflect intermediate steps to achieve the main goal. Therefore, they must show the key actions which lead to complete the main aim of the project].

[The list of specific objectives should allow the reader to visualize whether the main goal will be achieved].

[Here is an example:

The general aim “To analyze the development of metacognitive strategies through the elaboration of a portfolio” would break down into the following specific aims:

* “To identify the metacognitive strategies developed by three eighth grade students through the elaboration of a portfolio”.
* “To analyze the metacognitive strategies developed by those students”.
* “To describe possible educational solutions from results”].

No more than three specific aims should be proposed. Ideally, two or three are enough.]

1. **Theoretical background:**

[Please describe the sections which will be part of the theoretical background].

[Here is an example:

The project “Metacognitive strategies developed by three eighth grade students through the elaboration of a portfolio” would cover:

* Learning strategies training: learning to learn
* Metacognitive knowledge development
* The Portfolio within the educational context]

1. **Context for the project and methodology:**

[Briefly describe the context for the Project and methodology to be applied. Methodology is understood here as the steps you will take to complete the research and an indication of research an analysis tools you plan to use, if any.]

1. **Viability analysis**

[Do you have access to the necessary material and resources to carry the Project out?].

1. **Work planning:**

[Please list tasks to be done and their corresponding timeline].

1. **Bibliography**

[Give a short bibliography on the topic. Include about 5 references related to the theoretical background you proposed or studies like the one you plan to carry].

1. **Student compliance:**

**[Indicate your Name]**, who is enrolled in the academic program **[Indicate the academic program in which you are enrolled]**, agrees with the above detailed proposal to complete the Final Project and hereby commits himself/herself to carry out a personal and original work.

In **[City, Country]**, on **[Month] [Day], [Year]**