<p style="text-align:center">Guide to writing a research proposal
to submit as part of the application</p>

The purpose of the research proposal is to clarify the theoretical background and demonstrate the adequate use of sources, as well as to highlight the hypotheses of the dissertation. As a general rule, a **research proposal is about 15,000 characters long (including spaces), excluding the mandatory selected bibliography of 12 references.** It begins with the title and consists of 4 parts in the following order.

Title: Generally speaking the provisional title of the dissertation should be as precise as possible indicating the subject, the place and the time frame of the chosen problem.

1. Research question

In the first part of the proposal, which is about 1 to 2 pages long, the central question of the proposed research should be stated. The research question(s) should focus on the research problem while avoiding a simple description of the subject. Starting with the stating of the title, candidates are expected to shortly describe the rationale of the research by explaining the context of the problem, the relevance of the research question(s) and the theoretical framework. Applicants are encouraged to focus on a specific field-related subject area instead of a merely conceptual research plan.

As indicated above, it is mandatory to provide a context for the research question to justify its importance. Candidates should also point out in what way the proposal contributes to the general field to which the research belongs. By doing so, applicants specify their own contribution thus avoiding making a simple compilation.

As parts of the presentation of the research problem, initial hypotheses can be stated concerning the envisaged results of the research.

Accurate and explicit definition of the central issue of the research is fundamental. The questions should be clearly defined first, since the research problem determines the sources, methodology as well as the pertinent literature.

In order to choose the right subject, it is advisable to consider the time available for the writing of the dissertation, as well as its required length i.e. between 240.000 and 330.000 characters (spaces included) with 1.5 line spacing; and text of 12 points in the font Times New Roman.

2. Conceptual framework, literature review

In the second part (about 2 to 4 pages), candidates present the reviewed literature and the underlying theoretical framework, while providing a starting balance sheet. It is important to outline the main findings discussions of the authors who previously addressed the research problem and also to reflect on the limitations of their contributions. It is desirable to provide a critical overview of the relevant literature, while avoiding a simple enumeration of bibliographic references. The presentation and justification of the chosen methodology and approach are crucial, as well as highlighting their link to the proposed research question(s).

3. Presentation of sources

In this section (approximately 1 to 2 pages), the sources of the proposed research should be presented including e.g. libraries, public and private archives, interviews, direct observations,

questionnaires, etc. It is important to structure the collected documentation and to demonstrate the link between the content of the sources and the central question of the research.

4. Selected bibliography

It is mandatory to mention at least 12 pieces of literature (bibliographical references) related to the subject. Always include the exact references of the documents used.