## Research Proposal Template (500 – 1000 words)

We particularly encourage research that aims to **build evidence for action** through the development/refinement of frameworks, tools and/or positions/points of view to enable positive impact.

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| **Your name:** |
| **Proposed title:** |
| **One paragraph synopsis:**  *(A straightforward, descriptive, and informative outline of the scope of the research and what is intended to be achieved)* |
| **Relevance of topic to the course themes (please see attachment):**  *(An account of why this topic is relevant and worth investigating)* |
| **Main research question:**  *(A proposed main research question (or hypothesis), which should be focused and not overly broad)* |
| **Research context:**  *(To what extent has the question already been answered and what area(s) would benefit from new knowledge? You should aim to refer to papers and articles that you are able to access and add these to your reference list)* |
| **Brief overview of the proposed research design and methods:**  *(How do you plan to undertake the research?)* |
| **Likely data and means of access to the sources:** |
| **Reference list/Bibliography:**  *(List of sources you have used in the preparation of this proposal)* |

**Attachment: Overview of course themes and current CISL interests**

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| Course themes | | Examples of current CISL interests |
| Sustainability Outcomes  (You may wish to refer to the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/)) | Climate | * Transitioning to the net zero economy by decarbonising the global economy, including transport, energy, materials, agriculture, etc. |
| Nature | * Protecting and restoring nature, i.e. enhancing natural systems. * Circular economy, i.e. eliminating virgin hard / soft commodity inputs and losses / wastes. |
| Society | * Building inclusive and resilient societies, including through addressing inequalities and creating work. |
| Leadership Responses/ Levers for Change | Business Leading System Change | * How sustainability ambition is fostered and led.   Building leadership capacity to understand, drive and influence transformational change.  The [Rewiring Leadership](https://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/about/leadership-hub) framework. |
| Concepts for a Sustainable Future | * *As a means to support any of the other themes.* |
| The Need for Radical Change | How business government and financial institutions can cooperate to build a sustainable economy, as outlined by the [Rewiring the Economy](https://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/about/rewiring-the-economy) framework. |
| Organisational Culture and Practices | Measures and targets: what we need to know about companies and the data infrastructure lying behind it.  The influence of organisational culture on how sustainability ambition is fostered, resourced and led. |
| Cooperation, Collaboration & Partnerships | * *As a means to support any of the other themes.* |
| Sustainable Production & Consumption | * *Most of the other themes can support this.* |
| Sustainable Design & Technology | The models, methods, data and analytics needed to address physical, transition, market and operational sustainability risks and opportunities. |
| Government Policy & Regulations | * How public policy should act with business to address the economic, social and technical barriers to whole-society change, and how business can motivate the required political action.   Shifting the operating environment: Enabling broader market transition by influencing policy, regulation, politics and debate. |
| Sustainable Finance & Investment | The models, methods, data and analytics needed to address physical, transition, market and operational sustainability risks and opportunities. |
| Organisational Strategy and Business Models | * How to build net zero, restorative, circular and inclusive (redistributive) companies in practice.   Challenging and supporting organisations to embed sustainability in their strategies and key decisions.  Fostering and accelerating new sustainable enterprises, business models, products and services. |
| Governance (Corporate and International) | * *As a means to support any of the other themes.* |
| Communication and Education | Disclosure: what we need to know about companies, and the forms of transparency and accountability lying behind it Developing leadership capacity. |
| Corporate Philanthropy (tbc) |  |