## 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] that is focussed 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: CISL sustainable business programme themes**

Research topics should be connected to one of CISL’s sustainable business programme themes which are based on the MSt in Sustainability Leadership modules as listed in the table below:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Categories** | | **Indicative themes** |
| 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 and biodiversity, i.e. enhancing natural systems. |
| Society | Building inclusive and resilient societies, including through addressing inequalities and creating work. |
| Foundation Concepts: | Concepts for a Sustainable Future | Global pressure and trends  Sustainability models  Systems thinking |
| Economic Actors Leading System Change | A new narrative for the economy  Building the business case  Business leading systems change |
| Levers within organisations: | Strategy, Governance and Culture | Organisational strategy and business models  Organisational culture  Corporate governance |
| Operational Practices | Operational practices  Human Resource Management practices  Communications & education /employee engagement |
| Corporate Philanthropy | Reasons to engage in corporate philanthropy as part of a sustainable transition  Modes of corporate philanthropy; Strategic corporate philanthropy |
| Enabling levers: | Sustainable Design and Technology | Sustainable design  Sustainable technology  Technological innovation |
| Sustainable Finance | Sustainability and banking, including central banking  Sustainability and investment  Sustainability and insurance |
| Levers beyond organisations: | Value Chains and Collaborations | Value chains, especially engaging suppliers and consumers  Collaborations and partnerships  Communications & education / external stakeholder engagement |
| Policy and Governance | Government policy and regulation  International governance |
| Leadership for Sustainability: | Foundations | Leadership characteristics  Leadership purpose  Leadership in place/context |
| Mindsets and practices | Connected leadership; Collaborative leadership  Creative leadership; Courageous leadership  Acting and reflecting on leadership for a sustainable future |