**NUS Department of Social Work**
**Graduate Research Programme – Research Proposal Guidelines**

*The following is provided as a reference to help guide the preparation of your research proposal. Applicants are encouraged to adapt the structure and content to best present their proposed study.*

## Title of the study:

## 1. Introduction and Background

Provide a concise overview of the topic, including:
- Context and significance of the research problem.
- Brief review of key debates, concepts, or theories.
- The rationale for undertaking the study (why it matters academically and/or socially).

## 2. Research Problem, Objectives, and Hypotheses

Clearly state:
- The research problem or guiding issue.
- Research aim(s).
- Specific research objectives.
- Hypotheses (if applicable).

## 3. Literature Review (Brief)

Summarize relevant scholarly work (3–5 key themes). Demonstrate:
- What is already known about the topic.
- Gaps in the existing literature.
- How your proposed study will address these gaps.

(Use APA 7th in-text citations and include references at the end.)

## 4. Theoretical or Conceptual Framework

Outline the theoretical lens, framework, or model you will use to guide the research. Explain why this framework is suitable for the proposed study.

## 5. Methodology

Provide a tentative description of how you will conduct the research:
- Research Design (qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods).
- Population and Sampling (who will be studied, how participants will be selected).
- Data Collection Methods (e.g., surveys, interviews, archival data, secondary data).
- Data Analysis Plan (e.g., thematic analysis, regression, content analysis, statistical models).

(Mention ethical considerations relevant to your study.)

## 6. Expected Contributions

Explain how your study will contribute to:

- Academic knowledge (theory, concepts, or methods).

- Social work/social science practice, policy, or service delivery.

## References

(Use APA 7th edition reference list style. Single-spaced, hanging indent of 0.5 inches.)