

Motivational Essay
Masters in Urban Management and Development (UMD)
Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies of the Erasmus University
Rotterdam

Assignment

An important part of your admission to the UMD program is this short research proposal. This short text serves three purposes: (1) it asks of you to think about what you want to get out of UMD; (2) we get a better understanding of your expectations of the program you wish to enrol in; and (3) we can see if there is a match between your goals and the specialisation you have selected. It will also give us an impression of your writing style (clarity, flow, transitions, grammar, paragraphs, sentence structure).

Your research proposal should closely relate to your chosen specialisation track. Use the proposal to think about what topics you would like to work on during the UMD.

Instructions

Write a short research proposal of **max. 1200 words** (excluding references). This proposal should cover the following questions:

- What is the topic / are the topics I want to study in the master program?
- Why is it worthwhile to study this topic?
- What practical problems will it help to solve?
- What available (academic) knowledge is relevant for my research?
- What (academic) knowledge is still missing?
- What are the specific tasks I plan to do during the UMD to answer my questions?

Please note that you don't need to cover every question equally. Let your curiosity and imagination guide you. Also note that you do not have to refer extensively to existing literature, but if you do, make sure you follow a coherent and adequate citation style (we recommend using APA6).

Your proposal will be assessed by the Admissions Office and by the coordinators of the track in which you wish to enrol.

Best of luck with the research proposal. We look forward to receiving your application!