

Dear Student,

As part of your application to University of West Georgia's Ph.D. Degree in *Psychology: Consciousness and Society*, we request that you write a short research project proposal which demonstrates your curiosity and ideation in the field of psychology. Specifically, we ask that you identify a possible research question you would like to pursue, and explore how you might pursue this question using relevant theoretical frameworks and research methods. Please note that we do not expect a full-fledged, fine-tuned project proposal, nor do we expect you to commit to developing this specific project in our program. Rather, this prompt gives you the opportunity to examine your curiosities, play with ideas, and explore how to turn them into a scholarly project. It also provides us with insight into the kind of academic you may want to be.

In the following pages, you will find a template with which to structure your proposal. Feel free to “plug in” your ideas to the template as relevant. We appreciate conciseness in writing—quality over quantity and clarity of communication. As such, some areas may be best addressed with 1-2 sentences.

Thank you,

Marie-Cécile Bertau PhD

Head of Degree

Length of Paper: 3-5 pages, references on extra page.

Chose Cambria or Times New Roman in 12pt, 1.5 line-spacing.

Page numbering is mandatory.

## TITLE OF PROJECT

## NAME OF APPLICANT

### **Topic:**

State a problem in the field of psychology that you wish to address. The issue is likely a “gap” in the literature of a domain—specific knowledge that is missing and needs to be addressed, or knowledge that needs to be addressed differently (i.e. through a different methodological/theoretical approach). The domain can be theoretical, empirical, or both. Include references.

### **Question:**

Try to formulate a specific research question, derived from the problem you stated above. Your aim is to write a clear and concise *question*. You may have an overarching research question that can be broken down into several sub-questions, which are also fine to include.

### **Theoretical Framework:**

Identify a (or more than one) theoretical framework from which your question proceeds (e.g., theory of social representations, parapsychology, dialogical self theory, pragmatism, Lacanian psychoanalytic theory, liberation psychology, Jungian analytic psychology, existential-phenomenology, etc.). Describe, as concisely as possible, the key basic assumptions of this theoretical framework that are grounding your way of viewing psychological phenomena and that are likely to inform your work on the question you raise. Include references when relevant.

### **Purpose and Relevance (the “so what” question)**

Explain the purpose and goal of your research. Explain why your research is relevant and worth pursuing—not only to satisfy your own personal curiosity, but how it may benefit a specific domain of knowledge, academic discipline(s), and/or society as a whole.

In demonstrating purpose/relevance, you may also want to contextualize your project in relation to other researchers/scholars’ relevant work in the domain you are exploring. Include references when relevant.

*“The philosophical/theoretical/societal relevance of this project is given by the need/urge to understand what/how...”*

*“Our approach adds a scientific/philosophical/theoretical/interdisciplinary perspective on...”*

*“We assume that our findings will add a significant perspective to ...”*

*“We anticipate that our findings will contribute to...”*

**Methods:**

Identify the methods you consider appropriate to investigate your research question. Is this purely a theoretical investigation? Is it an empirical one? Are your methods qualitative or quantitative; exploratory, descriptive, historical, or seeking to prove a hypothesis? Mixed methods?

Please outline the key procedures you will follow to investigate your research question. Please include, as concisely as possible, the specific steps you would take, instruments you would use (i.e. surveys, questionnaires, structured interviews, written protocols, photovoice, etc.), the participants/population you would seek out (if involving human subjects), the literature you would investigate and how (if doing theoretical research), etc.

**Keywords:**

Identify 4-8 basic keywords which describe your research (for instance: synesthesia, psychic, self, discourse, culture, diaspora, LGBTQ, phenomenology)

**References**

Include a page of references to cite the authors in your text. Please provide them in APA format.