The recommended length of the research plan is three (3) pages including the references, written in Times New Roman/Calibri/Arial 11 pt, or similar. The research plan is made under the guidance of the supervisor(s) and her/his acceptance is required. The writing of a research plan is not a formality, but a high quality plan is fundamental and a necessary part of the scientific post graduate studies aiming at the doctoral degree. The research plan should cover the thesis project altogether. Instructions regarding the different parts of the research plan are listed below.

1. **Background and state-of the art**
   - State-of-the art and key problems in the current knowledge of the research field in question
   - What problems do you intend to solve with the current project

2. **Research objectives and hypothesis** *(what you are going to clarify)*
   - Objectives of the project and sub-project should be clearly defined and described
   - The sub-projects should be linked together
   - Whenever possible, aim at clear research hypotheses to solve the problem stated above

3. **Research methods**
   - General description of methods, experiments and materials
   - Expected problems and alternative solutions

4. **Research environment and collaboration**
   - Describe the research environment and possible network
   - Expected collaborations (both national and international)

5. **Implementation**
   - The current state of the project and graduate studies, further research, estimation of when the dissertation will be ready
   - A realistic and clearly defined timetable for the studies and (sub) projects

6. **References**