

## **GUIDELINES FOR PROJECT-BASED DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH**

in fulfillment of IDAS 697

Project-based research involves the design of a project (such as a curriculum, grant proposal, policy manual, strategic plan, etc.) in which the design of that project constitutes the primary creative scholarly effort. However, such a research project is not complete until a detailed research project report is written to explain concepts used, process, and outcomes. The research project report should aim to be a document which enables others to understand the process and, if desired, replicate the process and comprehend the meaning of the outcomes.

The research report must be written to include the following elements and conform to the IDP style and formatting rules (minimum 3,500 words, maximum 4,500; this does not include the appendices).

### 1. Rationale for developing the project.

- Why is the project needed? This may include information about the background of the organization or the field situation;
- Who needs the project? This includes the particular needs for planning and implementing such a project;
- What is the problem to be solved?

### 2. Literature Review

This section provides the major academic framework for the project design and must include an overview of current perspectives and theories, which apply to this project. This should include at least 20 references from scholarly works (minimum 2000 words).

- Benchmarking of similar projects that guided the planning process;
- Theories behind the concept of the planned project.

### 3. Description of processes or Methodology

- Description of the method, processes, or sequence used to prepare the project;
- Examples of tools used to prepare the project materials.

### 4. Outcomes of the project

- Run project by stakeholder/end-user who is familiar with the project area or may utilize your report;
- Evaluation and lessons learned when sharing the document;
- Recommendations for future developers and/or users.

### 5. Appendix

This section will contain your finished product or project (minimum 3,000 words, maximum 4,000 words).