

Application Guidelines

Scientific activity inside Nomad Research Unit (NRU) has to be justified and explained. Such work should not be fragmented (unconnected individual projects, or discordant with the overall approach and methodology); it should take into account the national and international academic and developmental contexts. Nomad RSI as a whole must answer fully these requirements, in terms of scientific standards and approved methodologies, favouring in-depth, long-term research over the rapid appraisals commonly termed as ‘development tools’. NRU research outcomes should aim for wide dissemination, either via individual publications in books and academic journals, or via presentations and conferences.

Nomad Research Unit bases all its activities around **team projects** (bounded by common themes of research or problematic convergence). The researchers may, however, find themselves alone in the field for very long periods, but will regularly be in contact with both his/her scientific supervisor at NRU and the local team. The Nomad RSI spirit is one of cooperation, of the bringing together of diverse skills and interests towards shared goals. Communication, support and teamwork are fundamental to this approach.

The Nomad Research Unit is keen to maintain a broad network of researchers, from long-term research fellows and established academics to post-graduate university students. NRU sees an important aspect of its work as the **promotion of young researchers**, who may not have had experience of working with a research unit. To help strengthen the capacities of these individuals, the NRU often works with universities to facilitate research projects for students.

Research projects are proposed to the Research Director, discussed within the NRU as well as with Programme Director and the direction of the local teams. Provided that the project is accepted, it is then formalised as Terms of Reference (contracts) between the proposing party and Nomad RSI. The selected researcher is then included in one of the NRU thematic projects, whether or not circumscribed by a particular geographical area.

Presentation of individual projects

Research proposals are detailed plans that present the aims, approach, methods, location, partners, practical considerations and expected outcome of proposed research projects. A draft of the proposal should be prepared as soon as contact has been made

and mutual interest expressed. Final proposals should not exceed 10 pages in length (annexure can be added). The **research proposal** should be submitted together with a **motivation letter**, a **CV** and a **list of publications** (if any).

Each researcher seeking to conduct a research project with the NRU must have a **very good command of English**, and explicitly consider the following and present it (in the same order, with the same headings) in their research proposal:

- 1. **Applicant** (brief bio-data of the researcher, name, position, and contact details of supervisor for students)
- 3. **Project title and abstract** (250 words in English, and French when possible)
- 4. **Experience of the candidate related to the project** (half a page)
- 5. **Methodology** (half a page)
- 5. **Detailed project** (max. 7 pages), including a one-page **critical bibliography** and a discussion on the **academic relevance of the project**
- 6. **Relevance of the project for the NRU** (pertinence of the proposed project with regard to the overall NRU research themes) (1 page)
- 5. **Calendar and location** (explain why that location has been chosen)
- 6. **Partners** (university or research institution of affiliations, organisation, etc.)
- 8. **Expected outcomes** (papers, university thesis...)
- 9. **Funding** (whether self-funded, research-grant funded, or Nomad RSI-supported)

The following is the usual process by which researchers are engaged.

- Initial contacts made (between prospective researchers, RD, PD, Nomad RSI field programmes and educational institutions) and mutual interest expressed
- Potential research subjects discussed and draft research proposals circulated (between researchers, RD and field programmes)
- Final research proposals submitted to NRU
- Final research proposals approved
- Terms of Reference circulated, researchers become members or affiliates of NRU
- ToRs signed by all parties
- Research conducted
- Field reports submitted (Important: a brief report on the main findings must be



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given in English at the end of the fieldwork)

- Results published

Initial contacts are made, in French or English, through the Nomad RSI email address:
info@nomadrsi.org (please indicate Research position as a Subject)