

4001-85 від 11.08.2026

Requirements for a research proposal
for applicants to study for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy
in the specialty C1 Economics and International Economic Relations (by specialization)
specialization C1.02 International Economic Relations
educational and scientific program "International Economic Relations"

Preparation and presentation of a research proposal is one of the types of entrance exams for postgraduate studies for obtaining a Doctor of Philosophy degree in the specialty C1 Economics and International Economic Relations (by specialization) specialization C1.02 International Economic Relations of the educational and scientific program "International Economic Relations".

Preparation and presentation of a research proposal in the specialty aims to identify the applicant's level of understanding of the chosen subject of research, his conceptual and methodological knowledge in the field of international economic relations, the applicant's ability to critically analyze the material, the ability to formulate research tasks, the ability to predict scientific results, as well as the systematicity and consistency of thinking, the depth and breadth of understanding of the chosen scientific problem and the ability to present material and participate in scientific discussions.

Preparation and presentation of a research proposal consists of the following parts:

1) Writing and submitting a research proposal on a selected topic.

A research proposal is a scientific text of up to 5 pages, prepared by an applicant for postgraduate studies, which justifies the topic of the future dissertation research, its relevance, the state of development in domestic and foreign science; possible ways to solve the problems set, etc.

Applicants submit a research proposal together with the submission of documents for admission to postgraduate studies.

A research proposal is in the nature of creative independent work. A research proposal is prepared by an applicant for postgraduate studies personally, is related to the applicant's scientific interests and is a concise statement of scientific and research ideas regarding the understanding and prospects for researching a selected scientific problem (topic), taking into account the main areas of scientific research defined by the educational and scientific program (from the list below).

The research proposal must determine the relevance of the future topic of the dissertation, the essence of scientific tasks and ways to solve them. The coverage of the material should not be limited to a descriptive approach, but should also reflect the author's analytical assessment of the state of the problem under study and the applicant's own point of view on possible options for its solution. Scientific propositions that may take place in the future dissertation and may act as elements of a new idea should be formulated and substantiated.

The research proposal must prove the applicant's scientific awareness, his understanding of the content of the study of the selected scientific problem, a certain level of mastery of the methodology of conducting scientific research work.

The research proposal submitted by the applicant does not necessarily have to become the topic of the dissertation research in the proposed formulation and substantive interpretation in the event of enrollment in graduate school.

Requirements for design: the text of the research proposal is typed on a computer at one and a half intervals on standard A4 sheets. Margins: on the left side – 30 mm, on the right – 15 mm, on the top – 20 mm, on the bottom – 20 mm. Paragraph indentation should be the same everywhere – 10 mm. The text is printed on one side of the sheet (in black medium-bold ink). Font – Times New Roman, size – 14 pt. A sample of the title page of the research proposal is attached.

2) Presentation of the research proposal at a meeting of the subject committee.

In addition to the text version of the research proposal, which is submitted with other documents of the applicant, a slide presentation of the presentation is prepared during the entrance exam.

The presentation of the research proposal is prepared by the postgraduate student using the Microsoft PowerPoint software product and takes place in the form of a report lasting up to 8 minutes (8-10 slides) with further discussion at a meeting of the subject committee. Each slide must be presented clearly, concisely and not contain ambiguous formulations.

The purpose of the presentation of the research proposal is to establish the level of awareness of the applicant and the ability to apply the acquired knowledge in scientific research. Determining the ability of the applicant to identify, systematize, solve, and present current problems of the chosen research area (topic), critically evaluate the results of scientific research, determine the prospects for further scientific research while observing due academic and professional integrity.

The objectives of the research proposal presentation are:

- identifying the applicant's abilities to carry out scientific research activities in the chosen direction, systematicity and consistency of thinking, depth of understanding of the chosen direction of scientific research;
- assessing the ability to present material and participate in scientific discussions, defending one's point of view.

The approximate structure of the research proposal presentation includes the following list of components, which is not exhaustive:

- substantiation of the relevance of the chosen topic,
- the degree of its development in domestic and foreign science;
- the purpose, objectives of the research, possible ways to solve the tasks set;

- the object and subject of the research;
- the methodology and techniques of the research;
- the intended structure of the scientific research;
- new scientific provisions that may take place in the future dissertation;
- information about the applicant's scientific achievements, his published scientific works (if any).

The presentation of the research proposal takes place in the form of an interview at a meeting of the subject committee. Upon completion of the report with an electronic presentation, it is discussed, answers are given to the questions of the committee members, and the wishes of the applicant regarding future research are expressed.

Speech culture and compliance with the regulations are an obligatory element of the culture and ethics of scientific communications.

When preparing and presenting a research proposal, the following are taken into account:

- mastery of the scientific style of presenting the material;
- the ability to scientifically substantiate the problem and prove the relevance of the work;
- mastery of various research methods;
- the ability to analyze and systematize scientific sources;
- the logic of the speech and the quality of the presentation;
- the correspondence of the research topic to the goals and objectives, expected results;
- the correctness of the conclusions, the demonstrability of their theoretical and practical value, etc.

The results of the preparation and presentation of the research proposal are evaluated on a 200-point scale (preparation and presentation of the research proposal - up to 120 points; defense of the research proposal (answers to questions from the committee members during the discussion) - up to 80 points).

Composite marks for preparation and presentation of research proposal

№	Composite marks	Maximum score
1	Relevance of the scientific problem and prospects of research on the chosen topic	15
2	Possession of a scientific style of presenting the material	15
3	Correspondence of the dissertation research topic to the goals and objectives, correctness of the conclusions	15
4	Level of analytical processing of the scientific topic, awareness of the selected scientific issue	25
5	Mastery of research methods, ability to analyze and systematize scientific sources	25

6	Availability of publications on the research topic, participation in scientific and practical conferences	10
7	Communication and public speaking skills, quality of visual material	15
	Together:	120

**Components of the assessment for the defense of the research proposal
(answers to questions from the committee members during the discussion)**

Total points	Evaluation criteria
61 – 80	The applicant has demonstrated a high level of conceptual, theoretical and methodological knowledge. The applicant's answers demonstrate the ability to analyze and interpret the chosen subject of research, excellent command of the skills of logical and consistent presentation and its linguistic and stylistic design.
41 – 60	The applicant's answers generally demonstrate a high level of conceptual, theoretical and methodological knowledge, the ability to analyze and interpret them, and proper mastery of the skills of logical and consistent presentation and its linguistic and stylistic design.
21 – 40	The applicant's answers demonstrate a satisfactory level of conceptual, theoretical and methodological knowledge and the ability to assimilate and interpret them, as well as sufficient mastery of the skills of logical and consistent presentation and its linguistic and stylistic design.
0 – 20	The applicant did not provide correct and complete answers to the questions. The applicant's answers indicate an unsatisfactory level of assimilation of the program material and the ability to assimilate and interpret it, insufficient mastery of the skills of logical and consistent presentation and its linguistic and stylistic design.

Evaluation criteria

Evaluation criteria	Total points
The relevance of the topic of the proposed research is fully justified, a comprehensive overview of research on the selected topic is presented, the research proposal contains all the necessary components, the provisions stated in the research proposal are not repeated and do not contradict each other, the applicant has shown deep knowledge of the theoretical and practical aspects of the program material, comprehensive, consistent and competent presentation.	175 – 200
The relevance of the topic of the intended research is substantiated, a comprehensive overview of research on the selected topic is presented, the research proposal contains all the necessary	145 – 174

components, the provisions stated in the research proposal do not repeat and do not contradict each other, the applicant showed thorough knowledge of the main issues of the program material, logical and competent presentation, did not make significant mistakes in the answers.	
The relevance of the topic of the proposed research is not fully substantiated, the review of research on the selected topic is not sufficiently thorough, the research proposal contains all the necessary components, the applicant has shown knowledge of only key issues of the program material, allows for inaccuracies, the formulation is not sufficiently correct.	125 – 144
The relevance of the topic of the proposed research is not fully substantiated, the review of research on the selected topic is superficial, the research proposal contains all the necessary components, but they are not fully disclosed, the applicant has shown incomplete knowledge of the main issues, understands the material only in general terms, the formulations are not sufficiently correct, the sequence of presentation is disrupted.	100-124
The relevance of the topic of the proposed research is not substantiated, there is no review of research on the selected topic, the research proposal does not contain all the necessary components, the provisions stated in the research proposal are repeated or contradict each other, the applicant has shown ignorance of key issues of the program material, makes significant errors.	less than 100 points

Applicants who score less than 100 points on a scale of 100-200 receive an unsatisfactory grade and are not allowed to participate in the competitive selection.

*SAMPLE COVER PAGE OF
RESEARCH PROPOSAL*

Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine
V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

on the topic: "**TOPIC**"

for applicants to study for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy
in the specialty C1 Economics and International Economic Relations (by
specialization)
specialization C1.02 International Economic Relations
educational and scientific program "International Economic Relations"

Performed by:...*Full name*

Kharkiv 2026

Head of the Subject Commission
Guarantor of the ESP International Economic Relations,
Doctor of Economic Sciences,
Professor of the Department of International
Economic Relations and Logistics

Olena DOVGAL

The program is approved by:

at the meeting of the Department of International Economic Relations and Logistics,
protocol No. 19 dated 17.04. 2026

Head of the Department of International
Economic Relations and Logistics

Anna ZAYTSEVA

The program was approved:

at the meeting of the Scientific and Methodological Commission of the Karazin Institute
of International Relations and Tourism Business, minutes No. 11 dated 17.04. 2026

Head of the Educational and
Methodological Commission

Hanna PANASENKO

at the meeting of the Academic Council of the Karazin Institute of International
Relations and Tourism Business, minutes No. 13 dated 17.04. 2026.

Director of the Karazin Institute of International
Relations and Tourism Business

Mykola PYSAREVSKY

Approved at the meeting of the Admissions Committee of V. N. Karazin Kharkiv
National University, minutes No. 5 dated 05.05.2026.

Executive Secretary of the Admissions Committee
of the V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University

Anna ZUBENKO