**Putting Your PhD Application Together**

Whilst staff in the Department are always willing to discuss outline plans with potential applicants at any stage and to help you focus your research and formulate your proposals, you may find it useful to think about the following guidelines as the basis for submitting an application for postgraduate research.

The material you present in your initial research proposal is not binding on you and you can, and no doubt will, develop this following discussions with your supervisor and further reading etc. However, to help us identify the person most able to support you in the development of your proposal, please try to think about the following issues:

1. **Summary of the research area** you are interested in and what interests you about it. Is there a particular area you feel needs more research or needs a new approach? Have you done any work in this area before perhaps as an undergraduate or Masters student? [Please try to limit this to one page]

2. **Outline description of your proposed research project** Could you now describe your ideas about your own research project and say how it fits into the wider research area described above. What will your research contribute to our understanding of the research area - what can you add? [Please try to limit this to one page]

3. **Work plan, methods and time-scale.** It may be that you will need some help to prepare the material for this section, but could you give some thought to how you plan to do the research: what methods you think you may use; what sort of material/sources will you be trying to access? Why is the approach you identify the most suitable one given your project focus (in other words why is it appropriate to use interviews or to rely on documentary sources?) Why choose a comparative approach? Is there any aspect of your work you think you may need specific help with (such as locating materials, data analysis, interviewing techniques etc). [Please try to limit this to one page]

4. **Supervision** Do you have any ideas about who you would like to supervise your work or the sort of background / skills your potential supervisor may need for this particular project?

*Remember… these suggestions are here to help you put your ideas together and to provide us with information to support you. We are here to help at any point in preparing this.*