

# Writing a research protocol

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Find an experienced mentor/  
supervisor/collaborator

Read the instructions

Look at examples

Guidelines for protocol writing

Know the current literature (&  
key conference abstracts)

The purpose of the background/rationale section is to answer the question: why are you doing the study?

Don't waffle

Logical flow:

- Relevant summary of what's known

- Grey areas (identify gaps you want to fill)

- Conclude with what you plan to study (& why it's important)

# Aims & objectives

## **Aim**

The main goal of the proposal

Brief

Not specific or focused

Title should be similar

## **Objectives**

Specific issues to be examined

State hypotheses

Spell out the study design

Sample size matters

Develop statistical analysis plan

Summary is the most important  
section