

## 2.0 PROPOSAL DEFENSE

### 2.1 Overview

The proposal defense is a compulsory requirement for all postgraduate students by research. It serves to evaluate the feasibility, originality, and methodological soundness of the proposed study before the student proceeds to full data collection.

The defense ensures that the student has:

- a) a well-defined research problem,
- b) clear research questions and objectives,
- c) an appropriate and ethical methodology, and
- d) the academic readiness to conduct independent research at the master's or doctoral level.

Students are not permitted to begin data collection until they have successfully passed their proposal defense and obtained ethics clearance (if applicable).

### 2.2 Timeline and Prerequisites

In accordance with Article 10.1.1 of the UNIMAS Graduate Studies Regulation (Research):

<b>Programme</b>	<b>First Defense Attempt (within)</b>	<b>If Repeat Defense Required</b>
Master by Research	6 months after initial registration	Additional 3 months allowed
PhD by Research	12 months after initial registration	Additional 3 months allowed

Students must have completed, or be concurrently enrolled in, SSF6023 (for Master's) or SSF7023 (for PhD) Research Methodology before scheduling a proposal defense.

## **2.3 Proposal Submission and Scheduling Procedure**

### **a) Supervisor Endorsement**

- The student must discuss the final draft proposal with the supervisor(s).
- Upon agreement that the proposal is ready, the supervisor completes the Proposal Defense Application Form
- The proposal must be screened for plagiarism using Turnitin, and a Similarity Index Report (**≤25%**) must be attached to the application.
- The main supervisor completes the Discussant Nomination Form section in the same document, proposing:
  - One Head of Discussant (Chairperson), and
  - Two Discussants who are experts in the research area.
- The main supervisor proposes the proposal defense date after consulting the student and discussants to ensure mutual availability.

### **b) JKPPS Endorsement and Announcement of Defense Schedule**

- The Postgraduate Coordinator presents the nomination to the JKPPS for review and formal endorsement.
- The Faculty issues an official Proposal Defense Notice indicating the date, time, and venue (or online link, if hybrid).

## **2.4 Outcomes of the Defense**

Following deliberation, the panel will recommend one of the following outcomes:

- Pass with Minor Corrections: Student must make small revisions; supervisor confirms completion.
- Repeat Defense: Major conceptual or methodological weaknesses; student must re-define within 3 months.

## **2.5 After the Defense**

### *Correction and Resubmission*

- Students make corrections according to panel comments.
- Supervisors confirm revisions via the Correction Endorsement Form before the proposal is filed by the Faculty.