Advanced Diploma in Archaeology Research Proposals

A research proposal should be structured as follows:

- A working title (problem-oriented or phrased as a question rather than descriptive or phrased as a statement).
- An abstract, comprising a short discussion (a couple of paragraphs) of the intended subject of the dissertation and how this relates to the secondary literature (what research has already been carried out before? What is known already?), and an explanation of why this topic is an important one for research (what new issues do you think need addressing?)
- A list of 3 or 4 research questions that you wish to address. There should be one overarching bigger question which is broken down into around 3 smaller sub-questions.
- A suggested research strategy / methodology, which discusses how you will attempt to address your research questions. What methods will you use? Will you be handling material from certain museums? Do you plan to go field walking? Will you be taking part in an excavation? Will you be carrying out interviews? Or will your research be library-based?
- A list of resources / archives / sites you will be examining (where appropriate)

It is probable that this will be a broad-based proposal. If you are accepted onto the Advanced Diploma, your proposal will be honed during and after the first supervision by a process of discussion and negotiation with the appointed supervisor and will probably have to be modified further when you have looked at the sources available or realised that you have been too ambitious. Do not worry about this; being able to make adjustments because of lack of sources or time is part of the learning process when undertaking a sustained piece of research.

Good luck and I look forward to hearing from you!

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