Requirements preproposal PhD study at TUA

A preproposal goes annex your application letter and is meant to show what kind of study you intend to do (max. 1000 words).

Demonstrate in your proposal evidence of precision and scholarship. The pre-proposal should be a coherent and realistic statement of intent which shows clearly how the different elements of your proposed research will fit together. There should be a definite coherence governing the relationships between your research question(s) and the rest of your strategy. Mind that the formulation is provisional, and is open for change in your eventual proposal to be written in the first half year of the PhD program. It is fully appreciated that the research project may develop in ways you may not be able to precisely define at this stage. You should avoid general statements which could apply to any research proposal in your area.

Required headings:

1. Topic and research question(s)
State the topic of your research and a research question, with not more than four sub-questions
2. Location
Describe where the research will be carried out (country, area, school).
What will be the proposed language to write in? English is preferred, Dutch and German are allowed. Other language can be used only by a special confirmation by the board of professors. If so please write a request in a your motivation letter.
3. Importance
Explain (a) why the research is important, (b) how it relates to existing discussions, and (c) what makes it sufficiently broad, deep and original for PhD work
4. Literature.
Identify at least three broad areas of literature which you intend to consult. Explain (a) how it relates to your research questions, and (b) provide no more than three key references. Here you must show that you are looking further afield than the core literature connected with your topic.
5. Methodology
Describe (a) the research approach which you intend to employ, (b) how this will be translated into data collection or source consultation, and (c) how it is an appropriate means for addressing the research questions. If applicable, describe what arrangements will be made for data collection or source consultation, with special reference to access, and relations with participants or other bodies. When empirical research is intended, include remarks about ethical sensibilities. (A). Will the study involve participants who are particularly vulnerable or unable to give informed consent (e.g. children, people with learning disabilities)? (B). Will it be necessary for participants to take part in the study without their knowledge and consent at the time (e.g. covert observation of people in non-

public places)? (C). Could the study induce psychological stress or anxiety or cause harm or negative consequences beyond the risks encountered in normal life? If these questions are applicable: what steps are being taken to address these issues?

Summary of required documents for PhD application

➢ The letter of motivation. Include:
  o Your motivation
  o In which TUA research program in which you wish to enroll (mention name of professor);
  o If you live outside the Netherlands state (a) how you will manage the attendance of the PhD graduate week August/September each year and/or the frequency and duration of other stays in the Netherlands, (b) how contact will be maintained with your supervisors and (c) how you will be able to access the necessary library resources in your own country.
  o Explain how your planning is doable next to your current job.
  o State how you intend to fund this research. Think about fees (see website), travel costs, books, library access, material needed for data collection like audio and video.
➢ CV;
➢ Title and assessment of Master thesis;
➢ Letter(s) of recommendation (by an academic referee).
➢ Diplom of Master thesis
➢ Copy of identification document

Please sent your proposal by e-mail as an attachment to the head of graduate program Professor A. De Muynck, Ademuynck@tua.nl, cc to the proposed supervising professor.

Deadline: June 1st.