

# Master of Design

School of Industrial Design  
Carleton University

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## Milestone 1 - Statement of Study Interest

This is a short document indicating your area of research interest which you have identified during the Fall term of your first year in the Master of Design program.

It includes: 1) a short description on your area of interest and research problem, and its scientific and societal relevance; 2) your research question; 3) the aim of your research; 4) five key references that support the description of your area of interest and research problem - referenced in the description; 5) an overview of the research process and methodology you currently envision; 6) a schedule of your research plan; 7) ethical considerations if applicable; and 8) key risks or contingencies that may impact your ability to follow through with your research plan.

The research topic must be aligned with the research areas of your supervisor so they can better support you throughout the study. If you have identified a co-supervisor, you should point them out and explain how their expertise will support the proposed study.

Please use the template provided below and **submit this document to the MDes Brightspace submission link** by the end of the Fall exam period, **December 23<sup>rd</sup>**. If you have an external co-supervisor, e-mail the document to them too.

Student Name	
SID Supervisor	
Co-supervisor & Affiliation	
Date	

You can use short notes or bullet points in sections 5-7.

### 1. Area of interest and research problem

*Summarize your research focus and contextualize it within the existing body of knowledge and current debate in Design in 500 words. Remember to include: key literature you have already sourced, the knowledge gap you are going to address, and its societal and scientific relevance.*

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**2. Research question**

*This should be the question your research aims to answer. It should be clear and concise. Remember that the research question outlines the key focus of the research.*

**3. Research aim**

*This should be the main aim of your research project. Add also what you expect to find or the groups that can benefit from your work.*

**4. Key references**

*Fully reference the up to 5 key sources you have referred to in section 1 (APA style).*

**5. Research process and methodology**

*Briefly outline (150 words) how you are going to address your research question: an initial overview of your methodology and any details of participants and of where you intend to run the project.*

**6. Schedule**

*Present the brief schedule of your research plan and time frame (you can use bullet points or include a separate Gantt chart). Remember to include: literature review; final definition of research aim, objectives and methodology; ethic clearance application; data collection; data analysis and interpretation; thesis writing.*

**6. Ethics**

*Provide a general overview of the key ethics considerations and/or potential issues associated with your research (e.g., working with children, participant confidentiality, etc.) that you were able to identify so far. (150 words)*

**7. Risks/contingencies**

*What do you consider to be the top three risks that might prevent you from following through with your research? What could be the impact of these risks and how might you mitigate against them happening or what alternative strategies might you consider?*