

# Master of Design

School of Industrial Design  
Carleton University

---

## Milestone 1 - Statement of Study Interest

This statement is a short document indicating your area of research interest which you identify in the Fall semester of your first year in the Master of Design program.

The statement must include 1) your research objective and question 2) a short description on this area of interest 3) five key references to support this description and referenced in the description 4) a schedule of your research plan 5) ethical considerations and 6) 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. You may also work with your supervisor to identify a co-supervisor to support the interdisciplinary expertise the proposed study requires.

The statement should not exceed 400 words. Please use the template provided below and submit this document to your SID supervisor (if known) and the Graduate Program Coordinator by the end of the Fall exam period, December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.

Student Name	
SID Supervisor (if known)	
Co-supervisor & Affiliation (if known)	
Date	

You can use short notes or bullet points in sections 4-6.

<b>1. Research question</b> <i>This should be a simple sentence outlining the key focus of the research (e.g., 'A study to investigate differences between young and older users of smartphones.').</i>
<b>2. Area of interest</b> <i>Summarize your research focus in 400 words including the major aims of your project, key literature you have already sourced, where you intend to run the project, any details of participants, methods you expect to use, and what you might expect to find or guidance produced benefits from your work.</i>
<b>3. Key references</b> <i>Fully reference the up to 5 key sources you have referred to in section 2 (APA style)</i>
<b>4. Schedule</b> <i>Present the brief schedule of your research plan and time frame (you can use bullet points or include a separate Gantt chart)</i>

**5. Ethics**

*Describe the key ethics considerations and/or potential issues associated with your research (e.g., working with children, participant confidentiality, etc.).*

**6. Risks/contingencies**

*What do you consider to be the top three risks to 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?*

**Marked by**

Comments

Final mark (out of 5)

**Evaluation guide**

<b>5 out of 5</b>	<i>Excellent</i>	High quality project plan. Complete, achievable and has considered relevant issues.
<b>4 out of 5</b>	<i>Very good</i>	Generally good quality project plan, though may not have considered all risks or implications.
<b>3 out of 5</b>	<i>Acceptable</i>	Reasonable project plan, though needs work if it is to lead to successful project.
<b>2 out of 5</b>	<i>Below standard</i>	Disappointing project plan – may need considerable additional thought.
<b>1 out of 5</b>	<i>Unacceptable</i>	Major issues have been overlooked, poorly written and fundamental aim of the document not addressed.