

FORMAT FOR MEMOIRE PROPOSALS

A statement in a few pages of graceful prose, covering the following points of information, of which 1 is formal and obvious and 2 the more **important**.

1. Area and scope of study:

- Identification of subject-matter: period, author, works, theme, etc.;
- Identification of primary texts in definitive editions (if any) ;
- Selective and briefly annotated list of relevant secondary works (critical, historical, theoretical, etc.) Indicate which secondary works are ancillary and which essential;
- If either primary or essential secondary material is not readily available in Geneva, indicate how access to such material is to be gained.

2. Critical intent:

- Statement of the argument or thesis concerning the subject;
- Statement of the method of argument, the kind of critical approach, the organization it requires;
- Justification of both of the above.

In other words: what do you intend to argue? how do you intend to argue it? why do you intend to argue it in that way and not in another?

what contribution will finally be made by your argument to the reader's knowledge or appreciation of the subject?

A cogent explanation of this point cannot and need not, of course, anticipate all the conclusions to be drawn from a study not yet undertaken; but it should make clear and defend the assumptions and direction of the investigation as well as indicate the main lines of its development and organization. That is, something like a chapter outline, some fairly precise expository procedure, should be implicit (if not necessarily explicit) in this statement.

It is appropriate that the project should evolve in the course of its execution, but experience has shown that unless the mémoire proposal is fairly detailed and precise a good deal of time and energy may be wasted.

The proposal may be submitted to any member of the corps professoral of the English Department, but students should understand that they are working less with a specific director than on a particular project. The Department will identify the most appropriate examiners available.