

Comment:

The small font and extended margins are probably not allowed anymore, which means editing will be a major task in order to condense your research proposal into two pages (it was already a major task for me even with all the compacting and tweaking I did!). My main point of advice is to get your proposal reviewed by as many people as possible, and multiple times. I got lucky and had a very dedicated professor (from another university, no less) read over my proposal and send back detailed suggestions and comments three times! The comments were invaluable, and I'm sure they played a huge role in making my proposal accessible to reviewers (i.e., succinct and catchy). It was a great lesson for me about the importance and value in networking and building a strong support system of other scholars and professors – they really help you out! Of course, your main advisor will probably be the most accessible source for reviewing the proposal. But at Berkeley they always tend to be busy and inundated with other things going on, so my second point is to start the process as early as possible. The good thing about ESPM is that we have a class designed to make you do this (ESPM 201A) – take advantage of it!

Good luck!