

School of Biological Sciences: Standard Milestones for MPhil Students

Milestones	Deliverables	Deadline
M1: Agreement on research topic and assessment of training needs and knowledge required to undertake research project and complete the thesis.	 A brief description of the general research topic. Training Needs Analysis to be completed. Attend Proficio courses and plan for further courses to attend, as appropriate. 	 By end of Term 1 By end of Term 1 By end of Term 3
M2: Clarify research topic and demonstrate an understanding of topic and relevance to wider research	 Research Project Proposal, including (dependent on subject area): Write central research problem/questions to be answered. Identify the techniques and protocols to be used including feasibility and access to core facilities. Methodological considerations. Feasibility Report – identifying sources, access, Health and Safety aspects and ethical considerations Create project plan, outlining objectives for each stage. 	• By Term 3
M3: Demonstrate understanding of chosen topic within the context of the field.	 Critical Literature Review (where relevant) Formulate a critique of the Literature Review 	 By end of year 1 SP and RSPB –(Term 3)
M4a: Demonstrate the ability to produce work of the quality and quantity in order to complete an MPhil. M4b: Progress to Year 2	 Evidence that academic writing is of standard and ability expected at MPhil level, including adequate referencing and language skills. Refined statement of the work to be undertaken, its aims and significance, especially its novelty and timeliness Present poster at Graduate Forum 	 By end of year 1 SP and RSPB –(Term 3)
M5: Demonstration of effective project management through the setting of research goals and prioritisation of activities.	 Create a detailed, realistic plan of work/ timetable for Year 2. Produce supervisory panel report written in an appropriate subject specific style 	 By end of year 1 SP and RSPB –(Term 3).
M6: Assessment of training needs and knowledge required to undertake research	 Training Needs Analysis to be reviewed. Attend Proficio courses and plan for further courses to attend, as 	Term 4 End of Term 6



School of Biological Sciences: Standard Milestones for MPhil Students

project and complete the		appropriate.	
thesis.	•	Updated annual report.	



School of Biological Sciences: Standard Milestones for MPhil Students

M7: Demonstrate work of the quality and clear evidence of progress towards submission for an MPhil at the end of Year 2	 Research completed (experimental, empirical and theoretical work, where relevant) Produce 2 draft chapters including results and discussion Produce a realistic completion year plan (if needed) Produce supervisory panel report written in an appropriate subject specific style 	By end of year Supervisory Panel (Term 6)
M8: Subject-specific milestones	 Oral presentation at Graduate Forum 	
Completion Year (if needed) M9: Clear evidence of progress towards submission	 Completed final draft of thesis or sufficient chapters for supervisor(s) comments Evidence of progression to be considered at Supervisory Panel. 	By Supervisory Panel prior to submission

The deadlines above are for full-time students. For part –time students term 1 equates to term 2, term 2 to term 4 and term 3 to term 6