University of Essex

School of Philosophy & Art History
(Centre for Curatorial Studies): Standard Milestones for PhD Students

Milestones	Criteria for progress	Deliverables	Deadline
M1: Confirmation and Progress to Year 2 (or equivalent for part-time students)	A: Assess training needs and knowledge required to undertake the combined theoretical and practical curatorial project (i.e. a major, research-driven exhibition) and complete the accompanying research-based document.	▪ Training Needs Analysis to be completed. ▪ Attend Proficio courses and plan for further courses to attend, as appropriate.	▪ Term 1 for full-time students; Term 2 for part-time students ▪ By end of Term 3 for full-time students; Term 6 for part-time students
	B: Choose a curatorial theme and demonstrate the wider significance/impact of the theme and curatorial approach with respect to contemporary discourses concerning the production, distribution, and reception of exhibitions.	Curatorial Project Proposal, including (dependent on subject area): ▪ Describe curatorial thesis and exhibition contents (this should include a provisional working title, a detailed explanation of the general concept, and a list and brief discussion of proposed or potential artists/works). ▪ Write central curatorial problems/strategies to be addressed. ▪ Methodological considerations. ▪ Feasibility Report – identifying sources, access and ethical considerations ▪ Create project plan, outlining objectives for each stage.	A research outline, preliminary curatorial plan of the exhibition project (e.g., a project timeline identifying next steps, and assessing the available resources to do the project) and a critical literature review will be presented at the first supervisory board, i.e. during term 2 for F/T students, or during term 4 for P/T students. If the relevant Board requires it, these submissions can be reworked and resubmitted for the Confirmation Board (Term 3 for full-time students; Term 6 for part-time students)
	C: Demonstrate understanding of chosen curatorial topic/approach within the context of the field.	▪ Critical Literature Review (where relevant). ▪ Critical review of selected curatorial topic/approach with regard to	Same as M1B.

		contemporary discourses of exhibition practice.	

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	D: Demonstrate the ability to produce work of the quality and quantity in order to complete within the four year maximum period.	▪ Evidence that theoretical/practical curatorial skills and academic writing (including adequate referencing and language skills) are of standard and ability expected at PhD level.	By Confirmation Board (Term 3 for full-time students; Term 6 for part-time students)
	E: 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 board report written in a clear and self-reflective style	By Confirmation Board (Term 3 for full-time students; Term 6 for part-time students)
M2: Progress from Year 2 to Year 3 (or equivalent for part-time students)	A: Review training needs and (theoretical/practical) knowledge and skills required to continue with the independent curatorial project and complete the accompanying research-based document.	▪ Training Needs Analysis to be reviewed. ▪ Attend Proficio courses and plan for further courses to attend, as appropriate.	▪ Term 4 for full-time students; Term 8 for part-time students ▪ By end of Term 6 for full-time students; Term 12 for part-time students
	B: Demonstrate work of the quality and quantity expected at the end of Year 2	▪ Produce c. 10,000 words in good draft, outlining the curatorial project's specific goals, storyline, provisional educational plan, promotional strategies and estimate costs	By end of year Supervisory Board (Term 6 for full-time students; Term 12 for part-time students)
	C: Review significance and impact of curatorial theme and approach, and articulate output.	For example: ▪ Deliver workshop ▪ Present research to students and staff at seminars/conferences ▪ Write journal articles	By end of year Supervisory Board (Term 6 for full-time students; Term 12 for part-time students) Curating students formally present their research to staff and

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			students in Term 6 for full-time students/Term 12 for part-time students.
	D: Demonstration of effective project management as well as an understanding of the inner mechanisms required to prepare and present a curatorial project through producing an outline of the exhibition development, identifying tasks and deadlines, and prioritisation of activities.	▪ Research/Planning stage completed, prepare for production stage ▪ Create a detailed, realisable exhibition, an educational plan, and a promotional plan/timetable for Year 3. ▪ Produce supervisory board report written in a clear and self-reflective style	By end of year Supervisory Board (Term 6 for full-time students; Term 12 for part-time students)
M3: Progress from Year 3 (or equivalent for part-time students) to Completion Year	A: Ability to reflect on skills and knowledge development and its application to the independent curatorial project.	▪ Training Needs Analysis reviewed. ▪ Enter production stage: Implement the promotional plan, develop the educational programme, prepare the exhibition components, organise shipping, mounting and installation of loaned works.	By end of year Supervisory Board (Term 9 for full-time students; Term 18 for part-time students)
	B: Demonstrate work of the quality and quantity expected at the end of Year 3 (or equivalent for part-time students)	▪ Enter functional phase: Present the exhibition to the public, implementing the educational/events programme and conducting visitor surveys etc. ▪ Have a substantial portion of the accompanying research-document (focusing on the curatorial project's	By end of year Supervisory Board (Term 9 for full-time students; Term 18 for part-time students)

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		conceptual/developmental phase) in good draft.	
	C: Demonstrate ability to complete within the maximum period.	▪ Produce a realistic completion year plan. ▪ Produce supervisory board report written in a clear and self-reflective style	By end of year Supervisory Board (Term 9 for full-time students; Term 18 for part-time students)
M4: During Completion Year	A: Clear evidence of progress towards submission	▪ Completed final draft of thesis for supervisor(s)/ supervisory board comment	By interim Supervisory Board prior to submission/Term 2 of completion year (Term 11/12 for full-time students; Term 20/21 for part-time students)