University of Essex

SRES: Standard Milestones for Professional Doctorate Students

Milestones	Criteria for progress	Deliverables	Deadline
M1: Progress to Year 2 (or equivalent for part-time students)	A: Assess training needs and knowledge required to undertake research project and complete the thesis.	▪ Training Needs Analysis to be completed. ▪ Attend Proficio courses and plan for further courses to attend, as appropriate.	Term 1 for all students
	B: Choose/narrow down the research topic and demonstrate significance/impact of research.	Research Project Proposal, including (dependent on subject area): ▪ Write central research problem/questions to be answered. ▪ Methodological considerations. ▪ Feasibility Report – identifying sources, access and ethical considerations ▪ Create project plan, outlining objectives for each stage.	By Supervisory Panel (Term 3 for full-time students; Term 6 for part-time students)
	C: 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 a clear and self-reflective style	By Supervisory Panel (Term 3 for full-time students; Term 6 for part-time students)
	D: Subject-specific milestones	▪ N/A	
M2: Progress from Year 2 to Year 3 (or equivalent for part-time students)	A: Review training needs and knowledge required to continue with research project and complete the thesis.	▪ Training Needs Analysis to be reviewed. ▪ Attend Proficio courses and plan for further courses to attend, as appropriate.	▪ 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 3000 word report ▪ Report on research undertaken to date	By end of year Supervisory Panel (Term 6 for full-time students; Term 12 for part-time students)

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	C: Review significance and impact of research and articulate output.	For example: ▪ Present research to students and staff at seminars/conference	By end of year Supervisory Panel (Term 6 for full-time students; Term 12 for part-time students)
	D: 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 3. ▪ Produce supervisory panel report written in a clear and self-reflective style	By end of year Supervisory Panel (Term 6 for full-time students; Term 12 for part-time students)
	E: Subject-specific milestones	▪ Participate in the SRES Conference ▪ To complete all taught modules	By end of academic year
M3: During Year 3 (or equivalent for part-time students)	A: Ability to reflect on skills and knowledge development and its application to the research project	▪ Training Needs Analysis reviewed	By Supervisory Panel (Term 8 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)	▪ Research completed (experimental, empirical and theoretical work, where relevant)	By Supervisory Panel (Term 8 for full-time students; Term 18 for part-time students)
	C: Demonstrate clear evidence of progress towards submission	▪ Completed final draft of thesis for supervisor(s)/ supervisory panel comment ▪ Produce supervisory panel report written in a clear and self-reflective style	By Supervisory Panel (Term 8 for full-time students; Term 18 for part-time students)
	D: Subject-specific milestones	▪ Oral presentation at SRES conference	By Supervisory Panel (Term 8 for full-time students; Term 18 for part-time students)
If required (**(for P/T students only)** M4: During Completion Period	A: Clear evidence of progress towards submission	▪ Timeline of work needing to take place before submission	Timeline agreed by Supervisory panel.