Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Economics Milestones for +3 PhD Students – 2020-21 entry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Criteria for progress</th>
<th>Deliverables</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M1: Confirmation and Progress to Year 2 (or equivalent for part-time students)</td>
<td>A: Assess training needs and knowledge required to undertake PhD research projects and complete the thesis.</td>
<td>▪ Register for two core economics PhD research training modules in Autumn Term out of those currently offered (Ec991, Ec993, and Ec995) based on planned research areas and discussions with Graduate Director (PhD).&lt;br&gt;▪ Reach agreement on EC990 and PhD thesis supervision with a suitable supervisor, in discussions with Graduate Director (PhD) by end of Autumn Term. &lt;br&gt;▪ Use Moodle to complete Training Needs Analysis form in conjunction with thesis supervisor by end of Spring Term. &lt;br&gt;▪ Plan for Proficio or other training courses in discussion with supervisor.</td>
<td>By end of Term 3/confirmation board for full-time students. (Part time study is not available in Year 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B: Choose research topic and demonstrate significance/impact of research.</td>
<td>▪ Complete Ec990 (research project plan) in line with issued guidelines. Obtain a mark of at least 60 in Ec990 by providing clear evidence of the ability to produce original research at the PhD level. This evidence may be either a self-contained complete research paper building toward a full substantive PhD chapter or a substantive research proposal for multiple PhD chapters by the student which meets at least the following minimum requirements.</td>
<td></td>
<td>By Confirmation Board (Term 3 for full-time students. Part time study is not available in Year 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>i. The paper or proposal clearly identifies the field of study for the research and outlines the key research question(s) being studied and planned to be studied, including a description of the future research that would develop the submitted research paper or proposal into the draft of at least one substantive PhD chapter by the end of Term 4. (This is the Autumn Term of the following academic year for</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approved by Deputy Dean via PGRE Office: July 2020
full time students. Please contact the Department for part-time students deadline.)

ii. It includes a brief critical review of the most important relevant literature. It must include a bibliography, containing full and accurate references to the literature cited in the paper.

iii. It provides evidence of the student’s ability to produce original research. This can be empirical work, theoretical work, or a combination of the two and must meet the following conditions.

   a. It must clearly specify the research question and methodology for investigation.

   b. It must contain the results of original preliminary research analysis by the student and must clearly demonstrate that the specified research question and methodology are worthy of investigation for PhD research.

   c. For theoretical research, a well-developed model and results must be provided, which may take the form of extending or modifying existing models.

   d. For empirical research, a well-developed methodology and empirical analysis must be provided. This may take the form of utilizing existing data if the data needed for research question are still in the process of being obtained. The sources of and the process by which this new data will be obtained must be clearly specified.

   e. The previous condition also applies when empirical work takes the form of calibration exercises common in macroeconomic research.

   f. Research that combines theoretical and empirical work must meet the criteria outlined above for at least one of the two.
| C: Demonstrate understanding of chosen topic within the context of the field. | Obtain mark of 60 or higher in EC990 and two chosen modules out of Ec991, Ec993, Ec995.  
- Attend RSS seminars in Spring and Summer Terms  
- Present the research project proposal (Ec990) in Summer Term RSS to research students and staff | By Confirmation Board (Term 3 for full-time students. Part time study is not available in Year 1) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| D: Demonstrate the ability to produce work of the quality and quantity in order to complete within the four year maximum period. | Have successfully completed original research work and research training in economic research at the level required for PhD research as evidenced by a mark of at least 60 in each of the following.  
i. EC990 research project (see above for details). In particular, it should be clear that the student is on track to produce a draft of the first substantive PhD chapter by the end of Term 4 (please consult Department for part-time students’ deadline).  
ii. Two modules out of EC991, EC993, Ec995, which cover current methodology and research topics in core areas of economic research. Students are trained in and assessed for their understanding of the  
- methodology, questions, production of original work, and  
- understanding of existing frontier research literature through assignments, presentations of own research and other research, and research reports. | By Confirmation Board (Term 3 for full-time students. Part time study is not available in Year 1) |
| 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 panel report written in a clear and self-reflective style | By Confirmation Board (Term 3 for full-time students. Part time study is not available in Year 1) |
Assess whether the planned research requires completion of the new [COVID Risk Assessment](#) for PGR student research and placement activities. All such risk assessments should be discussed at subsequent SPs and RSPBs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>M2: Progress from Year 2 to Year 3 (or equivalent for part-time students)</th>
<th>A: Review training needs and knowledge required to continue with research project and complete the thesis.</th>
<th>B: Demonstrate work of the quality and quantity expected at the end of Year 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Training Needs Analysis to be reviewed by supervisor</td>
<td>▪ Produce written research work of sufficient quality and quantity for two complete chapters or one complete chapter and one draft chapter (as specified in the supervisory panel report) commensurate with the standard required for a PhD in Economics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Attend Proficio or other courses as previously planned and plan for further courses to attend, as appropriate.</td>
<td>▪ Draft of first chapter expected by end of Autumn Term, with complete chapter expected by end of the year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Term 4 for full-time students. (Please consult Department for part-time students’ deadline)</td>
<td>▪ Draft of second chapter expected by end of the year, including evidence that student is on track to produce complete chapter by end of Autumn Term of the following year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ By end of Term 6 for full-time students; (Please consult Department for part-time students’ deadline)</td>
<td>By end of year Supervisory Panel (Term 6 for full-time students. Please consult Department for part-time students’ deadline)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| C: Review significance and impact of research and articulate output. | • Present research in RSS during Spring Term  
• Attend RSS during Autumn, Spring, and Summer Terms  
• Examples of other possible activities:  
  ▪ Present in workshops or conferences  
  ▪ Write research papers that would be suitable for submission to peer-reviewed academic journals based on doctoral research. | By end of year Supervisory Panel (Term 6 for full-time students. Please consult Department for part-time students’ deadline) |

| 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. Please consult Department for part-time students’ deadline) |

Assess whether the planned research requires completion of the new COVID Risk Assessment for PGR student research and placement activities. All such risk assessments should be discussed at subsequent SPs and RSPBs.

| 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 research project | • Training Needs Analysis reviewed  
• Completed written work of sufficient quality and quantity to provide clear evidence and they are in a position to write up the remainder of the thesis and submit within 12 months. | By end of year Supervisory Panel (Term 9 for full-time students. Please consult Department for part-time students’ deadline) |
| B: Demonstrate work of the quality and quantity expected at the end of Year 3 (or equivalent for part-time students) | ▪ Completed written work of sufficient quality and quantity for three complete dissertation chapters or two complete chapters and one draft chapter (including the introduction and the conclusion section of the dissertation) and only minor work remains.  
▪ Complete second chapter expected by end of Autumn Term.  
▪ Draft or complete third chapter expected by end of the year. | By end of year Supervisory Panel (Term 9 for full-time students. Please consult Department for part-time students’ deadline) |
|---|---|---|
| C: Review significance and impact of research and articulate output. | ▪ Present research in RSS during Autumn Term  
▪ Attend RSS during Autumn, Spring, and Summer Terms  
▪ Examples of other possible activities:  
  ▪ Present in workshops or conferences  
  ▪ Write articles for submission to peer-reviewed academic journals based on doctoral research. | By end of year Supervisory Panel (Term 9 for full-time students. Please consult Department for part-time students’ deadline) |
| D: Demonstrate ability to complete within the maximum period. | ▪ Produce a realistic plan for the completion period up to 1 year, in termly instalments.  
▪ Produce supervisory panel report written in a clear and self-reflective style | By end of year Supervisory Panel (Term 9 for full-time students. Please consult Department for part-time students’ deadline) |
| M4: (If Required) During the Completion Period | A: Clear evidence of progress towards submission | Completed work for supervisor / supervisory panel per the approved termly completion period.  
▪ Provide a clear plan by term for submission within 1 year completion period if extension needed on previously approved plan. | Termly reporting to supervisor / supervisory panel prior to submission. (Maximum term 12 for full-time students. Please consult Department for part-time students’ deadline) |

Assess whether the planned research requires completion of the new [COVID Risk Assessment](#) for PGR student research and placement activities. All such risk assessments should be discussed at subsequent SPs and RSPBs.