

**Department of Psychology**  
**Faculty of Science and Health**  
**MSD Students**

Postgraduate research milestones ensure that students are making sufficient progress during their studies, to submit within the appropriate period, and to provide a supportive framework to guide students through the various stages of their research. PGR supervisors should talk through the relevant milestones during supervisory meetings and they should be referred to on a regular basis.

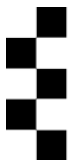
Supervisory panels and Research Students' Progress Boards use the milestones to guide judgements on progress and to shape a recommendation. It is recognised that every research journey is different and that, whilst the milestones provide an overarching framework of expectations, a degree of flexibility is also required based on the scope of research.

Students and supervisors are encouraged to supplement these milestones with individual research plans which take into account the specifics of an individual research project and the individual circumstances of the PGR student.

For students who have switched between FT and PT status, the following milestones will not directly apply and may require discussion with your supervisor, the PGR psychology administrator and the PGR Director. There is not perfect alignment between the FT and PT timelines, which are provided by the university.

**Year 1 (Full time)**  
**Year 1 and 2 (Part time)**

Milestone	Requirement	Term to undertake work <i>(To be used as a guide only)</i>	
		FT	PT
<b>Ahead of the first Supervisory Panel</b>			
M1.1	Identify the research topic with provisional research question(s) and consideration for significance and viability of research.  Develop an appropriate plan for progression of project during the next phase (up to second supervisory panel).  Assess training needs and knowledge required to undertake research project and complete the thesis, subject to current plan development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Training Needs Analysis to be completed</li> <li>▪ Consider Proficio courses (if applicable at this stage)</li> </ul>	1	1
M1.2	Clarify research topic and demonstrate an understanding of topic and relevance to wider research  Identify research plan and methodology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify central research question</li> <li>▪ Methodological considerations</li> <li>▪ Feasibility—identifying sources, access and ethical considerations</li> <li>▪ Create project plan, outlining objectives for each stage.</li> </ul>	1	2-3
<b>Ahead of the second Supervisory Panel</b>			
M1.3	Demonstrate the ability to produce work of the quality and quantity in order to complete a Masters by Dissertation within the standard period.	2	4



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Evidence that academic writing is of standard and ability expected at Masters by dissertation level, including adequate referencing and language skills</li> <li>▪ Commence and continue data collection</li> <li>▪ Attend Proficio courses and plan for further courses to attend, as appropriate</li> </ul>		
M1.4	<p>Demonstrate work of the quality and quantity expected at the end of Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Produce draft thesis</li> <li>▪ Research completed (experimental, empirical and theoretical work, where relevant)</li> <li>▪ Produce supervisory panel report written in a clear and self-reflective style</li> </ul>	3	5-6
<p>The Supervisory Panel will make a recommendation to the Research Students' Progress Board, ahead of the next academic year. Further information regarding Supervisory Panels and Research Students' Progress Boards can be found here: <a href="https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/postgraduate-research/pgpr-progress">https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/postgraduate-research/pgpr-progress</a></p>			

**Completion Period**

If, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> supervisory panel, a student isn't on track to submit their thesis by the end of year 1 (year 2 for Part time students), a recommendation for a period of completion can be requested from the RSPB, for approval by the Faculty Dean (Postgraduate)

Milestone	Requirement	Term to undertake work <i>(To be used as a guide only)</i>
C1.1	<p>Clear evidence of progress towards submission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Timeline of work needing to take place before submission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ By Supervisory Panel prior to submission.</li> <li>▪ Timeline agreed by Supervisory panel.</li> </ul>