Postgraduate Research milestones are used to ensure students are making sufficient progress during their studies, and to provide a supportive framework to guide students through the various stages of their research. The Milestones should also help to keep students on track to submit within the appropriate period. 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 will use the milestones to reflect on the level of progress being made, ahead of making a recommendation. Whilst the milestones are specific for each department and type of course, it is recognised that every research journey is different, and that whilst the milestones provide an overarching framework of expectations, a degree of flexibility should be given, based on the trajectory and 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.

### Year 1 (Full time)

#### Year 1 and 2 (Part time)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Term to undertake work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(To be used as a guide only)</td>
<td>FT PT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUE BY: the first Supervisory Panel</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Full-Time = Term 2, Part-Time = Term 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>M1.1</td>
<td>Assess training needs and knowledge required to undertake research project and complete the thesis. Complete the Training Needs Analysis (TNA) to assist with this.</td>
<td>FT 1 PT 1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M1.2</td>
<td>Choose research topic and demonstrate significance/impact of research with the Research Project Proposal, including (dependent on subject area): ▪ Central research problem/questions to be answered. ▪ Methodological considerations. ▪ Feasibility Report – identifying sources, access and ethical considerations ▪ Project plan, outlining objectives for each stage. To be presented at the first Supervisory Panel for full-time students only. If the relevant Panel requires it, these submissions can be reworked and resubmitted for the next Panel.</td>
<td>FT 1-2 PT 1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M1.3</td>
<td>Demonstrate understanding of chosen topic within the context of the field with a Critical Literature Review. Together the Critical Literature review and the Research Project Proposal should comprise 5,000-10,000 words. To be presented at the first Supervisory Panel for full-time students only. If the relevant Panel requires it, these submissions can be reworked and resubmitted for the next Panel.</td>
<td>FT 1-2 PT 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DUE BY: the part-time interim Supervisory Panel
For Part-Time Students ONLY - Term 5

M1.2 Choose research topic and demonstrate significance/impact of research with the Research Project Proposal, including (dependent on subject area):
- Central research problem/questions to be answered.
- Methodological considerations.
- Feasibility Report – identifying sources, access and ethical considerations
- Project plan, outlining objectives for each stage.
To be presented at the interim Supervisory Panel for part-time students only. If the relevant Panel requires it, these submissions can be reworked and resubmitted for the next Panel.

M1.3 Demonstrate understanding of chosen topic within the context of the field with a Critical Literature Review. Together the Critical Literature review and the Research Project Proposal should comprise 5,000-10,000 words.
To be presented at the interim Supervisory Panel for part-time students only. If the relevant Panel requires it, these submissions can be reworked and resubmitted for the next Panel.

DUE BY: the second Supervisory Panel
Full-Time = Term 3, Part-Time = Term 6

M1.4 Attend Proficio courses and plan for further courses to attend, as appropriate.

M1.5 Demonstrate the ability to produce work of the quality and quantity in order to complete an MPhil within the 2-year standard period (or equivalent for part-time students), in the following ways:
- Evidence that academic writing is of the standard and ability expected at MPhil level, including adequate referencing and language skills.
- Evidence that the student has completed roughly one third of the work necessary to complete the dissertation.
- This will standardly take the form of a 10,000-word chapter in good draft (in addition to the Project Plan and Literature Review outlined above).

M1.6 Demonstrate effective project management through the setting of research goals and prioritisation of activities, in the following ways:
- Create a detailed, realistic plan of work/timetable for Year 2.
- Produce Supervisory Panel report written in a clear and self-reflective style

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: https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/postgraduate-research/pgr-progress

Year 2 (Full time)
Year 3 and 4 (Part time)

DUE BY: the third Supervisory Panel
Full-Time = Term 4, Part-Time = Term 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Term to undertake work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DUE BY: the third Supervisory Panel</td>
<td>Review training needs and knowledge required to continue with research project and complete the thesis. Review the Training Needs Analysis as part of this.</td>
<td>FT: 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M2.1</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| M2.2 | Demonstrate work of the quality and quantity expected at the beginning of Year 2 (or part-time equivalent), in the following ways:
- Produce 10000 words in good draft
- Report on research undertaken to date | FT: 4 | PT: 9 |

(To be used as a guide only)
**DUE BY: the fourth Supervisory Panel**  
*Full-Time = Term 6, Part-Time = Term 12*

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<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Term to undertake work</th>
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</table>
| C1.1      | Demonstrate clear evidence of progress towards submission with the completed final draft of thesis for supervisor(s)/supervisory panel. This will included detailed reference as to what remains to be completed, and a timeline for outstanding actions.  
  - Clear plan to submission date agreed, including:  
    - Timeline of work needing to take place before submission  
    - Submission date agreed | Timeline agreed by Supervisory Panel and RSPB. |