



Department of Economics

Faculty of Social Sciences

MSD Students

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. Students should determine whether they will produce a monograph- or paper-based dissertation during year 1 and should then read reference to chapters and/or papers below as relevant to their thesis format.

Contents

- Year 1 (Full time), (Part-time study not available in Year 1) 1**
 - Ahead of the first Supervisory Panel 1**
 - Ahead of the second Supervisory Panel (Confirmation Board) 2**
 - Completion Period 2**

Year 1 (Full time), (Part-time study not available in Year 1)

Ahead of the first Supervisory Panel

Milestone	Requirement	Full time term	Part time term
M1.1	Assess training needs and knowledge required to undertake research project and complete the thesis.	1	N/A



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose two economics research training modules out of those offered. Pass (mark of 60 or more) each of these modules and in the research project proposal Identify a suitable supervisor. Use Moodle to complete Training Needs Analysis form in conjunction with supervisor. Plan for Proficio or other training courses to attend according to need in conjunction with supervisor. 		
--	--	--	--

Ahead of the second Supervisory Panel (Confirmation Board)

Milestone	Requirement	Full time term	Part time term
M1.2	Choose research topic and demonstrate significance/impact of research. Research project plan (EC990) including (dependent on subject area): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write research project proposal to include background information /questions to be answered. Methodological considerations. Objectives for each stage 	2-3	N/A
M1.3	Demonstrate understanding of chosen topic within the context of the field. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend RSS seminars in Spring and Summer Terms and present the research project proposal in Summer Term RSS to research students and staff 	2-3	N/A
M1.4	Demonstrate the ability to produce work of the quality and quantity in order to complete within the one year standard period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence through the research project plan (EC990) and doctoral modules that academic writing is of standard and ability expected at DSM level, including adequate referencing and language skills. 	2-3	N/A
M1.5	Demonstration of effective project management through the setting of research goals and prioritisation of activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a detailed, realistic plan of work/Produce supervisory panel report written in a clear and self-reflective style 	3	N/A

Has the student and supervisory team considered whether the research will be using human participants, and if so, has sought and received formal university ethics approval.

Has the student and supervisory team considered whether the research uses security-sensitive material, and if so, has sought and received formal university registration of this material.

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>

Completion Period

If, at the 2nd supervisory Panel, a student isn't on track to submit their thesis by the end of year 1, 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	Produce a realistic plan for the completion period up to 1 year, in termly instalments.	
C1.2	Clear evidence of progress towards submission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	