

The School of Philosophical, Historical, and Interdisciplinary Studies

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Art History Masters by Dissertation 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.

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

DUE by the first Supervisory Panel

Milestone	Requirement	Full Time term	Part Time term
M1.1	Assess the training needs and knowledge required to undertake the research project and complete the thesis, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing the Training Needs Analysis. 	1	1-2



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan Proficio courses and external courses to attend, as appropriate. 		
M1.2	<p>Complete a Research Project Proposal (2000 words), which clarifies the research topic and demonstrate an understanding of topic and relevance to wider research, including (dependent on subject area):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central research questions to be answered. Methodological considerations. Critical literature review to situate project within wider scholarly conversations. Feasibility Report - identifying sources, access and ethical considerations Project plan, outlining objectives for each stage. 	1-2	2-3

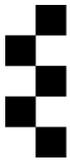
DUE by the second Supervisory Panel

Milestone	Requirement	Full Time Term	Part Time Term
M1.3	<p>Demonstrate the ability to produce work of the quality and quantity in order to complete a Masters by Dissertation within the one-year standard period;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence that academic writing is of standard and ability expected at Masters by dissertation level, including adequate referencing and language skills. Produce the equivalent of two draft chapters, as agreed by term 1 supervisory panel. Produce a 500-word report on work undertaken and next steps. 	2	4
M1.4	Attend Proficio courses and plan for further courses to attend, as appropriate.	2	4
M1.5	<p>Demonstrate work of the quality and quantity expected for a Masters by Dissertation at the end of Year 1 (or equivalent for part-time students) in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce remaining draft chapters. Research completed (archival and theoretical work, where relevant). 	3	6
M1.6	<p>Demonstration of effective project management through the setting of research goals and prioritisation of activities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a detailed, realistic completion plan, if required. Produce Supervisory Panel report written in a clear and self reflective style. 	3	6

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 (RSPB) 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 is not 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	Demonstrate clear evidence of progress towards submission with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a near-final draft of thesis for supervisor(s)/Supervisory Panel; and• a detailed, realistic plan of work needed before submission. Submission date will be agreed.	Timeline to be agreed by the Supervisory Panel and RSPB