



Department of Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies

Faculty of Social Sciences

Professional Doctorate 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.

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Year 1

Professional Doctorates Year 1 Ahead of the first Supervisory Panel

Milestone	Requirement	Term to undertake work <i>(To be used as a guide only)</i>
M1.1	<p>Attend taught component of the Professional Doctorate Course throughout year 1, this comprises modules:</p> <p>PA804 - Literature Review Module PA805 - Methodology Module PA806 - Revised Proposal Module PA808 - Research Processes Module As well as the Abstract Workshop</p> <p>And for Professional Doctorate in Psychodynamic Counselling only: PA809 – Advanced Clinical Practice</p> <p>Complete the taught component assignments that comprises the First Year ‘Portfolio of Assessments’:</p> <p>PA804 - Literature Review Essay (which can become the Literature Review Chapter of the final Thesis) (Term 1)</p> <p>PA805 - Methodology Essay (which can become the Methodology Chapter of the final Thesis) (Term 2)</p> <p>PA806 - Revised Proposal (which can become part of the Introduction and background Chapter 1) (Term 3)</p> <p>PA808- Becoming a Researcher and Ethical Issues and Considerations in Research’ interview exam (which contributes to the Ethics section of the Methodology Chapter and the Reflexive section of the Chapter 1- Introduction.</p> <p>And for Professional Doctorate in Psychodynamic Counselling only (PA809) - Case Study</p> <p>Supervision: Attend monthly supervision session and fill in ‘Supervision Log’ after each session (using the ‘Supervision Log’ Template).</p> <p>Assess training needs and knowledge required to undertake research project and complete the thesis.</p> <p>Choose/narrow down the research topic and demonstrate significance/impact of research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Project Proposal, including (dependent on subject area): • Write central research problem/questions to be answered. • Methodological considerations. • Feasibility Report – identifying sources, access and ethical considerations • Create a detailed, realistic plan of work/ timetable for Year 2. Create project plan, outlining objectives for each stage and timeline 	<p>Year 1</p> <p>Terms 1 to 3</p> <p>Term 1</p> <p>Term 2</p> <p>Term 3</p> <p>Term 3</p> <p>Term 3</p> <p>Terms 1-3</p> <p>Term 2-3</p> <p>Term 3</p>
M1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Needs Analysis to be discussed and updated regularly in supervision. 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend Proficio courses and plan for further courses to attend, as appropriate. 	Terms 2 to 3
M1.3	<p>Demonstration of effective project management through the setting of research goals and prioritisation of activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce supervisory panel report written in a clear and self-reflective style 	Terms 3
M1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student has clearly defined relevant psychoanalytic and analytical psychological concepts, and has grasped the clinical manifestation of these which are under discussion Approved Page 2 of 4 by Faculty Dean (Postgraduate) via PGRE Office: September 2021 Student is able to take a critical stance on key psychoanalytic and analytical psychological debates pertinent to their project Students have passed all taught component written work in their First Year 'Portfolio of Assessments' student must attend the Research Student Week and participate in the Research Student Conference activities in person in order for an upgrade to be approved 	Terms 2 to 3

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>

Year 2

Year 2 Ahead of the second Supervisory Panel

Milestone	Requirement	Term to undertake work <i>(To be used as a guide only)</i>
M2.1	<p>Attend the PA808 (Thesis) Professional Doctorate workshops monthly (2 hour sessions comprising 1 hour research project support and 1 hour timetabled research activity).</p> <p>Review training needs and knowledge required to continue with research project and complete the thesis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training Needs Analysis to be reviewed. Attend Proficio courses and plan for further courses to attend, as appropriate. 	Terms 4 to 6
M2.2	<p>Demonstrate work of the quality and quantity expected at the end of Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce 5000 word report Report on research undertaken to date 	Terms 5 to 6
M2.3	<p>Review significance and impact of research and articulate output. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present research to students and staff at seminars/conference 	Terms 5 to 6



M2.4	<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 plan of work/ timetable/timeline for Year 3 • Produce supervisory panel report written in a clear and self-reflective style 	Terms 5 to 6
M2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student must attend the Research Student Week and present their research in the Research Student Conference activities in person • Student must display a clear understanding of their chosen methodology and research design and the clinical relevance of the research 	Terms 5 to 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.

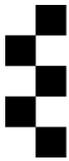
Has the student and supervisory team considered whether the research uses security-sensitive material, and if so, has sought and received formal university registration of this material.

The Supervisory Panel will make a recommendation to the Research Student Progress Board, ahead of the next academic year. Further information regarding Supervisory Panels and Research Student Progress Boards can be found here: <https://www.essex.ac.uk/student/postgraduate-research/pgr-progress>

Year 3

Ahead of the third Supervisory Panel

Milestone	Requirement	Term to undertake work <i>(To be used as a guide only)</i>
M3.1	<p>Attend the PA808 (Thesis) Professional Doctorate workshops monthly (2 hour sessions comprising 1 hour research project support and 1 hour timetabled research activity).</p> <p>Review training needs and knowledge required to continue with research project and complete the thesis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Needs Analysis to be reviewed. <p>Attend Proficio courses and plan for further courses to attend, as appropriate.</p> <p>Ability to reflect on skills and knowledge development and its application to the research project</p>	Terms 7 to 8
M3.2	<p>Demonstrate work of the quality and quantity expected at the end of Year 3 (or equivalent for part-time students)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research completed (experimental, empirical and theoretical work, where relevant) 	Terms 7
M3.3	<p>Demonstrate clear evidence of progress towards submission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed final draft of thesis for supervisor(s)/ supervisory panel comment • Produce supervisory panel report written in a clear and self-reflective style 	Terms 8 to 9



M3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student must submit to their supervisor a complete draft of their thesis before being eligible to enter into completion 	Terms 8 to 9
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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 either confirm to the Research Student Progress Board that the student is ready to submit their thesis, or recommend that a period of completion is required (see below).

Completion Period

If, at the 6th supervisory Panel, a student isn't on track to submit their thesis by the end of year 3), 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	Clear evidence of progress towards submission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timeline of work needing to take place before submission Student is expected to complete the course 'Surviving the Viva', which is offered by the Talent Development Unit of the University 	Timeline agreed by Supervisory board.