

## School of Biological Sciences: Standard Milestones for MPhil Students

Milestones	Deliverables	Deadline
M1: Agreement on research topic and assessment of training needs and knowledge required to undertake research project and complete the thesis.	<ul> <li>A brief description of the general research topic.</li> <li>Training Needs Analysis to be completed.</li> <li>Attend Proficio courses and plan for further courses to attend, as appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>By end of Term 1</li> <li>By end of Term 1</li> <li>By end of Term 3</li> </ul>
M2: Clarify research topic and demonstrate an understanding of topic and relevance to wider research	<ul> <li>Research Project Proposal, including (dependent on subject area):</li> <li>Write central research problem/questions to be answered.</li> <li>Identify the techniques and protocols to be used including feasibility and access to core facilities.</li> <li>Methodological considerations.</li> <li>Feasibility Report – identifying sources, access, Health and Safety aspects and ethical considerations</li> <li>Create project plan, outlining objectives for each stage.</li> </ul>	• By Term 3
M3: Demonstrate understanding of chosen topic within the context of the field.	<ul> <li>Critical Literature Review (where relevant)</li> <li>Formulate a critique of the Literature Review</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>By end of year 1 SP and RSPB –(Term 3)</li> </ul>
M4a: Demonstrate the ability to produce work of the quality and quantity in order to complete an MPhil. M4b: Progress to Year 2	<ul> <li>Evidence that academic writing is of standard and ability expected at MPhil level, including adequate referencing and language skills.</li> <li>Refined statement of the work to be undertaken, its aims and significance, especially its novelty and timeliness</li> <li>Present poster at Graduate Forum</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>By end of year 1 SP and RSPB –(Term 3)</li> </ul>
M5: Demonstration of effective project management through the setting of research goals and prioritisation of activities.	<ul> <li>Create a detailed, realistic plan of work/ timetable for Year 2.</li> <li>Produce supervisory panel report written in an appropriate subject specific style</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>By end of year 1 SP and RSPB –(Term 3).</li> </ul>
M6: Assessment of training needs and knowledge required to undertake research	<ul> <li>Training Needs Analysis to be reviewed.</li> <li>Attend Proficio courses and plan for further courses to attend, as</li> </ul>	Term 4 End of Term 6



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project and complete the		appropriate.	
thesis.	•	Updated annual report.	



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M7: Demonstrate work of the quality and clear evidence of progress towards submission for an MPhil at the end of Year 2	<ul> <li>Research completed (experimental, empirical and theoretical work, where relevant)</li> <li>Produce 2 draft chapters including results and discussion</li> <li>Produce a realistic completion year plan (if needed)</li> <li>Produce supervisory panel report written in an appropriate subject specific style</li> </ul>	By end of year Supervisory Panel (Term 6)
M8: Subject-specific milestones	<ul> <li>Oral presentation at Graduate Forum</li> </ul>	
Completion Year (if needed) M9: Clear evidence of progress towards submission	<ul> <li>Completed final draft of thesis or sufficient chapters for supervisor(s) comments</li> <li>Evidence of progression to be considered at Supervisory Panel.</li> </ul>	By Supervisory Panel prior to submission

The deadlines above are for full-time students. For part –time students term 1 equates to term 2, term 2 to term 4 and term 3 to term 6