

Essex Business School: Standard Milestones for Traditional Thesis PhD Students

Milestones	Criteria for progress	Deliverables	Deadline
M1: Confirmation and Progress to Year 2 (or equivalent for part-time students)	A: Assess training needs and knowledge required to undertake research project and complete the thesis.	 Training Needs Analysis to be completed. Attend Proficio courses and Insite workshops Regular attendance at department research seminars Plan for further courses to attend, as appropriate. 	 Term 1 for full-time students; Term 2 for part-time students By end of Term 3 for full-time students; Term 6 for part-time students
	B: Choose research topic and demonstrate significance/impact of research.	 Research Project Proposal, including (dependent on subject area): Central research problem/questions to be answered. Methodological considerations. List of potential empirical sources, access and ethical considerations. Project plan, outlining objectives for each stage. 	By Confirmation Board (Term 3 for full-time students; Term 6 for part-time students)
	C: Demonstrate understanding of chosen topic within the context of the field.	Literature Review	By Confirmation Board (Term 3 for full-time students; Term 6 for part-time students)
	D: Demonstrate the ability to produce work of the quality and quantity in order to complete within the four year maximum period.	 Evidence that academic writing is of standard and ability expected at PhD level, including adequate referencing and language skills. One of the following should be provided: Draft methodology chapter. Detailed outline of the conceptual framework (This is equivalent to approx. 20% of overall 	By Confirmation Board (Term 3 for full-time students; Term 6 for part-time students)



Essex Business School: Standard Milestones for Traditional Thesis PhD Students

	E: Demonstration of effective project management through the setting of research goals and prioritisation of activities.	 Continuing detailed, realistic plans of work/ timetable for the next six months. Supervisory Panel reports written in a clear and self-reflective style 	By Confirmation Board (Term 3 for full-time students; Term 6 for part-time students)
M2: Progress from Year 2 to Year 3 (or equivalent for part-time students)	A: Review training needs and knowledge required to continue with research project and complete the thesis.	 Training Needs Analysis to be completed. Attend Proficio courses and Insite workshops Regular attendance at department research seminars Plan for further courses to attend, as appropriate. 	 Term 4 for full-time students; Term 8 for part-time students By end of Term 6 for full-time students; Term 12 for part- time students
	B: Demonstrate work of the quality and quantity expected at the end of Year 2	Drafts of following chapters Literature review Methodology At least one data analysis chapter (This is equivalent approx. 40% of overall thesis)	By end of year Supervisory Panel (Term 6 for full-time students; Term 12 for part-time students)
	C: Review significance and impact of research and articulate output.	 Presentation of research project to staff and students at annual PhD conference 	By end of year Supervisory Panel (Term 6 for full-time students; Term 12 for part-time students)
	D: Demonstration of effective project management through the setting of research goals and prioritisation of activities.	 Continuing detailed, realistic plans of work/ timetable for the next six months. Supervisory Panel report written in a clear and self-reflective style 	By end of year Supervisory Panel (Term 6 for full-time students; Term 12 for part-time students)
M3: Progress from Year 3 (or equivalent for part-time students) to Completion Year	A: Ability to reflect on skills and knowledge development and its application to the research project	 Training Needs Analysis reviewed Regular attendance at department research seminars 	By end of year Supervisory Panel (Term 9 for full-time students; Term 18 for part-time students)



Essex Business School: Standard Milestones for Traditional Thesis PhD Students

	B: Demonstrate work of the quality and quantity expected at the end of Year 3 (or equivalent for part-time students)	 Research completed (experimental, empirical and theoretical work, where relevant) Minimum 4 draft chapters (This is equivalent to approx. 70% of overall thesis). 	By end of year Supervisory Panel (Term 9 for full-time students; Term 18 for part-time students)
	C: Demonstrate ability to complete within the maximum period.	 Continuing detailed, realistic plans of work/ timetable for the next six months. Supervisory Panel report written in a clear and self-reflective style 	By end of year Supervisory Panel (Term 9 for full-time students; Term 18 for part-time students)
M4: During Completion Year	A: Clear evidence of progress towards submission	 Completed final draft of thesis for supervisor(s)/ supervisory Panel comment (This is equivalent to approx. 100% of completed thesis). 	By interim Supervisory Panel prior to submission/Term 2 of completion year (Term 11/12 for full-time students; Term 20/21 for part-time students)
	B: Administrative milestones	 Submit thesis title form 	