



School of Computer Science and Electronic Engineering

Faculty of Science and Health

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.

Contents

Year 1 (Full time), Year 1 and 2 (Part time)	2
Ahead of the first Supervisory Panel	2
Ahead of the second Supervisory Panel	2
Completion Period	2

**Year 1 (Full time), Year 1 and 2 (Part time)****Ahead of the first Supervisory Panel**

Milestone	Requirement	Full Time term	Part Time term
M1.1	Ability to write and speak coherently about the research and its context. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief technical report on the work done so far, including familiarisation and technical tools. 	1	2
M1.2	Assess training needs and knowledge required to undertake research project and complete the dissertation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training Needs Analysis. Plan for Proficio courses to be attended 	1	2
M1.3	Clarify research topic and demonstrate an understanding of topic and relevance to wider research Research Project Description, including (dependent on subject area): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central research problem/questions to be answered. Project plan, outlining objectives for each stage. 	1	2
M1.4	Technical ability to be demonstrated by example. Working prototype, demonstration, or simulation appropriate to the technical area of research, created substantially by the student, and showing an appropriate level of technical competence.	1	2

Ahead of the second Supervisory Panel

Milestone	Requirement	Full Time term	Part Time term
M1.5	Demonstrate the ability to produce work of the quality and quantity required to complete a Masters by Dissertation within the standard period. <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. Critical literature review 	3	6
M1.6	Demonstrate work of the quality and quantity expected at the end of Year 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed, realistic plan of work leading to submission Produce sufficient draft chapters/ papers 	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, 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 (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	Clear evidence of progress towards submission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timeline of work needing to take place before submission 	Timeline agreed by Supervisory panel.