The School of Philosophical, Historical, and Interdisciplinary Studies

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

History MAD 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)

Ahead of 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: • Completing the Training Needs Analysis. • Plan Proficio courses and external courses to attend, as appropriate.	1	2
M1.2	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):	1	2 and 3

	• Write central research problem/questions to be answered. • Methodological considerations. E.g. rationale for selecting primary sources; consider strengths and limitations of primary sources. • Include critical literature review to situate project within wider scholarly conversations. • Feasibility Report - identifying sources, access and ethical considerations • Create project plan, outlining objectives for each stage.		
M1.3	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; • Evidence that academic writing is of standard and ability expected at Masters by dissertation level, including adequate referencing and language skills. • Produce equivalent of two draft chapters, as agreed by term 1 supervisory panel. • 500-word report on work undertaken and next steps.	2	4
M1.4	Demonstrate work of the quality and quantity expected at the end of Year 1; • Create a detailed, realistic plan of work leading to submission • Produce remaining draft chapters. • Research completed (empirical and theoretical work, where relevant). • Produce supervisory board report written in a clear and self reflective style	3	6
M1.5	Demonstration of effective project management through the setting of research goals and prioritisation of activities; • 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, 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

Milestone	Requirement	Term to undertake work *(To be used as a guide only)*
C1.1	To request a period of completion, if required, a student must: Show clear evidence of progress towards submission, (including detailed reference as to what remains to be completed, and a timeline for outstanding actions). ▪ - Completed final draft of thesis for supervisor(s)/ supervisory board comment.	To be agreed by the Supervisory Board