## Faculty of Social Sciences: Standard Milestones for Masters by Dissertation Students

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| M1: Progress to Completion (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 plan for further courses to attend, as appropriate. |  
• Beginning of 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: Clarify research topic and demonstrate an understanding of topic and relevance to wider research | Research Project Outline, including (depending on subject area):  
• Write central research problem/questions to be answered.  
• Methodological considerations.  
• Feasibility Report – identifying sources, access and ethical considerations  
• Create project plan, outlining objectives for each stage and start research. |  
• By first Supervisory Board and RSPC (end of term 1 for full-time students; Term 2/3 for part-time students) |
|        | C: Demonstrate the ability to produce work of the quality and quantity in order to complete a Masters by Dissertation within the two year maximum period. | Evidence that academic writing is of standard and ability expected at Masters by dissertation level, including adequate referencing and language skills.  
• Write critical literature review |  
• By end of year 1 Supervisory Board and RSPC – (Term 3) for full-time students;  
• By end of year 2 SB and RSPC – (Term 6) for part-time students. |
|        | D: Demonstrate work of the quality and quantity expected at the end of Year 1 | Research chapters completed (  
• Produce half of the draft chapters, including any substantive/empirical ones |  
• By end of year Supervisory Board (Term 3 for full-time students; Term 6 for part-time students) |
|        | E: 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 Board report written in a clear and self-reflective style |  
• By end of year Supervisory Board (Term 3 for full-time students; Term 6 for part-time students) |
| M2: Completion Year (if needed) | A: Clear evidence of progress towards submission | Completed final draft of thesis for supervisor(s)/supervisory board comment |  
• By Supervisory Board prior to submission. |