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

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<tr>
<th>Milestones</th>
<th>Deliverables</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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| M1: Agreement on research topic and assessment of training needs and knowledge required to undertake research project and complete the thesis. | - A brief description of the general research topic.  
- Training Needs Analysis to be completed.  
- Attend Proficio courses and plan for further courses to attend, as appropriate. | By end of Term 1  
By end of Term 1  
By end of Term 3 |
| M2: Clarify research topic and demonstrate an understanding of topic and relevance to wider research | Research Project Proposal, including (dependent on subject area):  
- Write central research problem/questions to be answered.  
- Identify the techniques and protocols to be used including feasibility and access to core facilities.  
- Methodological considerations.  
- Feasibility Report – identifying sources, access, Health and Safety aspects and ethical considerations  
- Create project plan, outlining objectives for each stage. | By Term 3 |
| M3: Demonstrate understanding of chosen topic within the context of the field. | Critical Literature Review (where relevant)  
Formulate a critique of the Literature Review | By end of year 1 SP and RSPB –(Term 3) |
| M4a: Demonstrate the ability to produce work of the quality and quantity in order to complete an MPhil.  
M4b: Progress to Year 2 | Evidence that academic writing is of standard and ability expected at MPhil level, including adequate referencing and language skills.  
Refined statement of the work to be undertaken, its aims and significance, especially its novelty and timeliness  
Present poster at Graduate Forum | By end of year 1 SP and RSPB –(Term 3) |
| M5: Demonstration of effective project management through the setting of research goals and prioritisation of activities. | Create a detailed, realistic plan of work/timetable for Year 2.  
Produce supervisory panel report written in an appropriate subject specific style | By end of year 1 SP and RSPB –(Term 3). |
| M6: Assessment of training needs and knowledge required to undertake research | Training Needs Analysis to be reviewed.  
Attend Proficio courses and plan for further courses to attend, as | Term 4  
End of Term 6 |
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<th>project and complete the thesis.</th>
<th>appropriate.</th>
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<td>▪ Updated annual report.</td>
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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 | ▪ Research completed (experimental, empirical and theoretical work, where relevant)  
▪ Produce 2 draft chapters including results and discussion  
▪ Produce a realistic completion year plan (if needed)  
▪ Produce supervisory panel report written in an appropriate subject specific style | By end of year Supervisory Panel (Term 6) |
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<td>M8: Subject-specific milestones</td>
<td>▪ <em>Oral presentation at Graduate Forum</em></td>
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| Completion Year *(if needed)* | Completed final draft of thesis or sufficient chapters for supervisor(s) comments  
▪ Evidence of progression to be considered at Supervisory Panel. | 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