

MSc by Dissertation Pathway

Milestone		Deliverable*	Target Time ¹
MSD M1	Topic Chosen	A brief (50 word) description of the general research topic.	Term 1 (2nd week)
MSD M2	Supervisory Panel Research Proposal: Student should have an understanding of chosen area, should have formulated a realistic plan for a piece of research that is both feasible and worthwhile and should have listed their corresponding training needs.	Detailed Proposal: (3000 words) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Detailed literature survey ◦ Academic writing must be of standard and ability expected at Masters by dissertation level, including adequate referencing and language skills. ◦ Detailed research plan Research plan should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ clearly state what the questions to be addressed are and why they are significant ◦ describe the approach to be used to investigate them ◦ indicate how success of project may be evaluated ◦ identify significant milestones ◦ identify resources needed ◦ Identify Proficio courses to attend to acquire necessary skills 	End of Term 1
QPR	Quarterly progress review Student should have made substantial progress on the investigative work that will form the basis of the dissertation.	Progress summary form indicating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Research progress ◦ Factors influencing progress ◦ Aims and work plan for next period ◦ List Proficio and any other courses attended 	End of Term 2
MSD M3	Supervisory Panel By this stage the investigative work should be essentially complete. A detailed thesis plan should be produced, and perhaps some chapter drafts.	Progress report (1000-1500 words) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Summary of experimental/theoretical work ◦ Account of any problems encountered ◦ Detailed thesis plan ◦ Timetable for completing the remaining writing ◦ List Proficio and any other courses attended 	End of Term 3 (Carried over to End of Year 1 if necessary at which point all investigative work must be complete.)
Completion	Students must submit their thesis within 2 years. During the completion period a supervisory panel meeting should be held every 2 terms.	Prior to supervisory panel meetings students submit the latest version of their dissertation and a Research Student Progress Summary Form, which should contain a detailed thesis/completion plan.	Within Year 2

NOTES:

1. **All students must familiarise themselves with the University's Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Degrees available from <http://www.essex.ac.uk/about/governance/regulations/codes-higher.aspx>**
2. Students who are to attend a Supervisory Panel Meeting will provide Panel members and the PGR Administrator with a completed Research Student Progress Summary Form and a Progress Report. Documents are to be submitted (electronically unless otherwise informed) by the published deadline.
3. **Students in completion** are also expected to have supervisory panel meetings at regular intervals to review progress in writing up. Prior to each of these meetings the students will submit the latest version of their draft thesis to the Supervisory Panel members in addition to the Research Student Progress Summary Form, which should contain a detailed thesis/completion plan.
4. The target times indicate the typical rate of progress of a full time student who will complete their research within one MSc research year. Part-time students registered for two MSc research years may be expected to proceed at half that rate.
5. **Students who have not reached M3 will not be eligible for completion status.**
6. A student who wishes to be considered for upgrade to MPhil/PhD after one year (two for part-time) should inform the Supervisory Panel and will need to achieve M3 of the Doctoral (MPhil/PhD) Research Pathway by the end of Term 3.