UNIVERSITY OF Southampton

Doctoral Research Progression Milestones

This poster provides a broad overview of the progression milestones for the research phase of University of Southampton doctoral programmes. The information here applies to research students who commenced their studies after 1 August 2016. Research students who enrolled before 1 August 2016 will follow the timings for upgrade/transfer from MPhil to PhD registration that applied at the time of their admission. All part-time research students who have not undergone a Progression Review in the previous twelve months of candidature should undergo an Interim Progression Review. Please refer to the Progression Milestones section of the PGR Student Handbook for full details on what to submit in your discipline and when.

SUBMISSION

The Academic Needs Analysis is an assessment of your personal and professional developmental needs, including transferable skills. Consideration will be given to:

- the facilities required to enable you to undertake your research (for example, any specialist software packages or a high specification computer; appropriate space to work);
- if you have subject-specific gaps in your knowledge base and how these might be filled;
- if you need to learn a language and/or require English language support;
- a self-assessment of your personal, professional and research skills (as set out in the Researcher Development Framework on the Vitae website);
- discussions of the ethical implications of your research with your supervisory team and the articulation of how these are incorporated into your research plans.

It will be led by you in conjunction with your supervisory team at the start of your research programme.

This should be assessed within 3 months of entry to a research degree programme. Research students should submit an updated Academic Needs Analysis at each Progression Review. The Review Panel should evaluate the training needs at each viva voce and provide feedback on the updated Academic Needs Analysis. Assessor: Supervisory team

As a minimum your written report should include:
- defined aims and objectives of the research project;
- describe how the proposed research relates to other work in the area;
- present the work that has been carried out to date;
- a plan for progression to confirmation.

As a minimum your written report should include:
- an overview of the research problem and rationale for the project;
- a substantial literature review;
- well-developed plans for fieldwork and data analysis (if applicable);
- a plan for progression to the third review.

As a minimum your written report should include:
- an outline of the thesis structure;
- a summary of work that has been carried out to date;
- a summary of work still to be done;
- a plan for submission of the thesis.

For a detailed guide on what format your thesis should follow please see the PGR submission and completion information in the Quality Handbook.

Please discuss all submission and assessment requirements with your supervisory team as they are best placed to help position these guidelines in the context of your specific research project. For independent advice please contact your Doctoral Programme Director via your Faculty Graduate School. The relevant key contacts can be found in your Faculty PGR Student Handbook.

www.southampton.ac.uk/doctoral-college

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PGR Student Handbook | Thesis Submission | Progression Milestones | Quality Handbook

COMMENCE

- Academic Needs Analysis
- First Review
- Confirmation Review
- Third Review
- Thesis Submission

ASSESSMENT

During the first Progression Review, the Progression Review Panel must satisfy itself that the research student:
- is undertaking a viable research project;
- has made satisfactory progress to date;
- has developed an adequately detailed plan of work to enable the research degree to be completed within the allowable registration period;
- has defined the preliminary objectives and scope of the research project adequately;
- has made an appropriate survey of the relevant literature and demonstrated an ability to make critical evaluation of published work;
- has acquired an appropriate knowledge and understanding of applicable research methods.

Assessors: Supervisor and Independent Assessor

During the second Progression Review the Confirmation Panel must satisfy itself that the research student has demonstrated the ability to:
- manage the research project;
- become proficient in the special field of research involved;
- achieve success at PhD level given adequate motivation and perseverance.

The panel must also satisfy itself that:
- the project being undertaken is of sufficient scope, originality and theoretical interest to constitute a genuine contribution to the subject in the form of the understanding of a problem, the advancement of knowledge or the generation of new ideas.

Assessors: Two Assessors, independent of Supervisory team.

During the third Progression Review, the Progression Review Panel must satisfy itself that the research student:
- has made satisfactory progress to date;
- has developed an adequately detailed plan of work and is on track to enable the research degree to be completed within the allowable period of candidature.

Assessor: Supervisory team

For the award of a doctorate by research, a student must have demonstrated:
- the creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline and merit publication;
- a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of an academic discipline or an area of professional practice;
- the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems;
- a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry.

Examiners: Internal and External Examiner.