

Higher degree research candidature milestones - PhD

The following timeline shows the sequence of significant candidature milestones for a full-time PhD student. They are designed to encourage timely completion, that is, within the ideal timeframe of three years.¹ The milestones highlighted in **bold** are the approved University-wide academic progress reporting milestones, for which there are set dates (see also the lines of academic responsibility on page 6 of this code of practice).

Stage of candidature	Standard milestones for full-time PhD candidature
Year 1	
Commencement	Enrolment and appointment of provisional supervisor
Within 1 month	Confirmation of supervisor and supervisory panel chair
Within 3 months	Confirmation of supervisory panel membership Completion of Graduate School and local area induction programs
3-6 months	Submission of research plan for the 12 months ahead Submission of research proposal for consideration by the University's ethics committee Meeting of student with supervisory panel
9-12 months	Submission of thesis proposal for review Submission of 1st research progress report, together with updated research plan To be produced in consultation with supervisory panel and approved at a meeting of the full panel
Year 2	
18-24 months	Completion Mid-term review (if required by Prescribed Authority of the School/Faculty/Centre)
18-21 months	Submission of 2nd research progress report and research plan for the next 12 months (after a panel meeting)
Year 3	
30-33 months	Submission of 3rd research progress report and research plan for the next 12 months (after a panel meeting)
34 months	Notification of intent to submit (at least two months before submission) Identification of examiners
36 months	Submission of thesis for examination
36 months	Completion of the final ANU Doctoral Experience Questionnaire Attendance at exit interview with Dean of Graduate Studies

Candidates who do not submit their thesis within 36 months must continue to submit research plans and research progress reports every 12 months. The maximum period of entitlement for an PhD under the Research Training Scheme is 4 years full-time. After that time, candidates must apply for an extension of their program.

¹ There may be variations in the timing of these milestones for candidates in different programs. Details of any such program variations should be clearly identified in local area HDR program documentation.