



## Milestones are ...

important signposts to keep you on track.

The milestone process in the Higher Degree by Research journey helps you to keep your project on track and plan the different tasks you need to fulfill during that time.

Each major milestone provides an opportunity for formal feedback on your progression and for people from outside of your immediate work group to look at your project. This is an opportunity to receive important input and ideas to further develop your project. The milestones also provide an opportunity to discuss any issues that may have arisen during your project to help you finish on time. Of course, this should be an ongoing discussion with your supervisor(s) anyway, but sometimes it can be helpful to get external input.

## Your milestones over the years

1 Your milestones are not evenly distributed over the years.

2 The first year requires the most milestone work:

- > Application
- > Preconfirmation milestone (about 3 months full-time equivalence after commencement)
- > Annual Progress Report
- > Confirmation

In the second year, you usually only have to submit your annual progress report unless you are in an MPhil program. Your second year in MPhil will conclude your thesis work.

3 The third year entails a number of milestones again:

- > Final seminar (PhD only)
- > Thesis examination and submission
- > Graduation

## Tips

- > Know your milestones and dates.
- > Plan your milestones with ample time for supervisors to review your work.
- > View milestones as an opportunity to receive external feedback that helps to improve your research.
- > Know and understand the requirements for each milestone.
- > Understand how milestones and respective documentation build on each other to efficiently work through your thesis requirements.