

PhD Milestones Short Guide

Maximum candidacy is 5 years from the date of registration. Please note that if awarded, research scholarships are paid for only 4 years of candidacy.

Course requirements:

- 7 Courses total:
 1. The graduate research seminar
 2. Two method courses: PL5221, PL5222 and/or PL5225 (please note that PL5225 may not be offered during your candidacy, you may contact the graduate coordinator if you wish to take this course)
 3. The graduate core course in your area (e.g., if you are a Cognitive Psychology/Cognitive Neuroscience student you are required to take “Advanced Cognitive Psychology” or “Advanced Cognitive Neuroscience”)
 4. A graduate core course from outside your area (e.g., if you are a Cognitive Psychology student you may take “Advanced Social Psychology”)
 5. The empirical research project course (PL6208)
 6. One course of your choice which may be at the 4000, 5000 or 6000 Level
- The GPA should not fall below 3.0 for two consecutive terms or 3.5 for three consecutive terms. If it does, the candidature will be terminated by the university.

Thesis:

- A thesis (max. 80,000 words) has to be submitted after completion of the course requirements and within the maximum period of candidacy.
- The thesis will be examined by 3 reviewers, one of whom has to be external.

Graduation Requirements:

- Minimum GPA of 3.5
- Not failed more than two courses
- Where applicable, obtained a C or better in the graduate English course (intermediate level (CELC))
- Passed Qualifying Examinations (QE)
- Passed the Doctor of Philosophy thesis
- Passed oral examination

Timeline:

Date	Milestone
1 year, 4 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Set and confirm thesis committee (supervisor + 2 members, both of which may be internal) with HOD ● Reading lists from student to thesis committee for comments (Committee members have 1 month to suggest changes)
1 year, 5 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reading lists with comments back to student
1 year, 10 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student should have completed 6 of the required courses including two 6000 Level courses (GPA min 3.5) and the empirical research project PL6208 ● Student should now take the QE: ● Comprehensive Exams 1 and 2, oral defence of thesis proposal ● Student should submit thesis proposal to committee 4-8 weeks

	prior to the defence
2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students should have completed all QE components (Comprehensive Examinations 1 and 2, oral defence of thesis proposal)
4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The University does not set a deadline for thesis submission. However, given the duration of research scholarship and candidacy, the student should now be ready to submit thesis for examination. After the reviewers have sent their evaluation, an oral defence has to be scheduled.

More information:

<https://fass.nus.edu.sg/prospective-students/graduate/research/programme-requirements/>