

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:

- 6 Courses total:
 1. The graduate research seminar (PL6770)
 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 Studies Director if you wish to take this course)
 3. The empirical research project course (PL6208)
 4. Two electives:
 - can be 4000, 5000, or 6000 level courses; within or outside of one's area. Only 1 4000 level course can be read.
 - In lieu of a content course, 1 elective can be fulfilled by doing an Independent Study Course (i.e., PL6660) with a faculty member who is NOT the primary thesis adviser
- 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. 100,000 words) has to be submitted after completion of the course requirements and within the maximum period of candidacy.
- The thesis will be examined by 2 reviewers.

Graduation Requirements:

- Minimum GPA of 3.5
- Not failed more than two courses.
- Take and pass the course NG5001 *Academic Communication for Postgraduate Researchers* with a minimum grade of 'C' (from AY2022/2023 Semester 1 intake onwards)
- Take and pass the course NG5002 *Research Ethics for Graduate Researchers* on a CS/CU basis (from AY2024/2025 Semester 1 onwards, including those who have successfully transferred from Master's by Research to PhD programme.)
- 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/ Graduate Studies Director• 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. After the list is finalized, a copy should be emailed to the Department Administrator, who will then submit the lists to the Graduate

	Studies Director/HOD for approval.
1 year, 10 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students should have completed 5 of the required courses including the empirical research project PL6208 (GPA min 3.5) • Student should now take the QE: • Comprehensive Exams 1 and 2, oral defence of comprehensive exams and 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 comprehensive exams and 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/>