The typical full-time PhD: progression and development

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Key:

Milestones	Research activities	Professional development	Monthly supervisor meetings are mandatory and logged throughout

Y1 — Foundations and Planning

- Induction

Development Needs Assessment (DNA), reviewed and adapted each year, with a focus on transition in the final year

- Complete ethical approval
- Attend and engage in workshops, conferences and seminars
- Scope research context and establish detailed research plan
- Present initial ideas at departmental conferences
- Develop research tools and techniques for data collection

Submit mid-year Independent Progress Assessment Panel (IPAP) by month 9

Submit Annual Progress Review (APR) by 30June to progress

- Establish and confirm research methods with development needs

Register annually by 1 October via RDA, upon sign-off of IPAP and APR

Y2 — Enhancing Research and looking at impact

- Start to organise, collect and analyse data
- Detailed data collection using established methods
- Engage in exploratory or preliminary analysis to identify trends or challenges
- Experiment with alternative data collection techniques
- Present research at external conferences and network with external collaborators
- Undertake research visits and field trips for collaboration data collection etc

Y3 — Refinement and Submission Pending

- Attend advanced thesis and Viva workshops
- Finalise comprehensive, accurate data collection, addressing gaps
- Complete data analysis and finalise major thesis chapters
- Engage in journal submissions and peer review. Present at conferences.
- Amalgamate findings into clear arguments
- Apply for submission pending status by Year 3 end

Y4 — Completion and Thesis Submission

- Appraise findings and integrate into a coherent thesis narrative
- Attend career development, coaching sessions tailored to academia, industry, or alternative career paths
- 'Intention to Submit' Form
- Disseminate research through publications and public engagement
- Prepare for viva voce through mock sessions and workshops
- Defend thesis at viva voce
- Address viva outcomes: No Corrections, Minor Corrections (3 months), Major Revisions (6 months), Resubmission (1 year)
- Upload completed thesis to Library