3. RPG Milestones

Code of Practice: Research Degrees, 8.1 Milestones

“The University has established a suite of key milestones to assist students in completing their studies in a timely manner. Milestones are designed to be indicators of progress rather than hurdles to progression. Concerns raised in annual progress reviews (see 8.5) or regarding lack of progress generally (see 8.7) may impact a student’s progression through their programme. The key milestones for research students on a full time PhD programme are:

- Attend SGS induction;
- Complete skills needs analysis (with the guidance of the supervisory team and within the first three months of study);
- Record supervisory meetings - students are encouraged to record all supervisory meetings and a minimum of one every three months;
- Undertake annual progress review. The first annual progress review carries requires the submission of a substantial written piece and must be completed by 12 months for full-time students and 24 months for part time students.”

Code of Practice: Research Degrees, 4 Roles and responsibilities
4.3 Faculties

“Faculties are responsible for:

- developing and operating a structure, e.g. through directors of research students or research postgraduate tutors, to oversee progression and administrative activities of their research students and disseminating the knowledge of this”

Progress reviews
(Code of Practice: research degrees, section 8 – “Progress and progress monitoring arrangements”)

- Annual progress reviews should be completed by supervisory teams and students and are due by the anniversary of enrolment each year.

- Progress reviews should be completed and signed off by supervisors and students within Research Compass (available during last quarter).
We have an ongoing issues with progress reviews which are not completed on time. Currently we have 669 active PhD/MPhil students enrolled at Stirling and 324 of those have an annual progress review overdue (app. 48%):

Faculties can access student information - including Progress Reports Missed, and Skills Need Analysis not completed, via Research Compass.