The Probationary Review is an important milestone and is normally completed 3 months (full-time study) or 6 months (part-time study) following the date of enrolment. This review will ensure Postgraduate Researchers (PGRs) have made satisfactory progress to date with their research degree. Full guidance is provided in the Code of Practice for Research Degrees.

What is the purpose of the Probationary Review?
The Probationary Review is a key milestone in the PGR’s research degree which will:

- confirm completion of the PGR’s induction checklist
- confirm the supervisory team meets the needs of the research project and the supervisory relationships are working well
- demonstrate the PGR’s understanding of the research project
- enhance and consolidate the research design and include a detailed and achievable timeline to thesis submission
- undertake an initial risk assessment of health and safety and ethical issues related to thesis submission
- complete the online ethics and Data Protection Ace 2018 e-modules
- consider the PGR’s training needs

Key Aspects of the Probationary Review
The key aspects of the Probationary Review are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Probationary Review</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expected submission date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 3 months (FT) post-enrolment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 6 months (PT) post-enrolment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion with Faculty Panel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is the process for assessing the Probationary Review?

- Discusses Probationary Review with Supervisors
- Completes Probationary Review including ethics checklist*
- Uploads to ResearchPAD

What happens at the Panel meeting?

The Probationary Review will be read by the Panel in advance of the assessment meeting. At the meeting, the PGR will make a brief presentation to introduce their research project and highlight key aspects.

The PGR will be asked questions by the Panel and will have to defend their work to date and demonstrate how they will complete their research degree in a successful and timely fashion.

What are the outcomes of the Probationary Review?

The Probationary Review outcomes are as follows:

- Progression
- Probationary period extended, normally by 1 month
- Transfer to MRes
- Withdrawal

The PGR must successfully complete the Probationary Review in order to progress.

Further Information

Further information can be obtained in the Code of Practice for Research Degrees.

The Doctoral College:
Tel: +44 (0)1202 968255
Email: DoctoralCollege@bournemouth.ac.uk

Faculty Postgraduate Research Administrators:

Faculty of Management:
fmresearch@bournemouth.ac.uk

Faculty of Science & Technology:
SciTechResearch@bournemouth.ac.uk

Faculty of Health and Social Sciences:
fhssresearch@bournemouth.ac.uk

Faculty of Media & Communication:
fmcresearch@bournemouth.ac.uk

*Even if the Ethics Checklist is not required at this point, the ethics e-module must be completed at this stage and the date included on the report.

The PGR uploads the completed Probationary Review to ResearchPAD following discussions with and feedback from the supervisory team, who add a brief statement of support about the PGR’s progress.

The PGRA will organise a Faculty Panel, normally comprising the Departmental Head of Research or nominee (Chair) and an independent academic drawn from the Faculty.

Members of the Panel should assess the PGR’s potential for successful and timely completion of their research project via the PGR’s written submission and verbal presentation and subsequent discussion.