

PhD students, whether part-time or full-time, are required to produce a Research Plan and have it assessed within 3 months of initial registration.

Students progressing from first year in the CDT LSGNT, who are continuing with the same research as in year one, are exempt from the RPC report. However, these students will still need to complete the 2 items below, just like all other students (except, instead of uploading documents to the Maths PhD Milestone system, the CDT students will email the plagiarism certificate to the PG Administrator):

1. Non-native speakers are reminded to be following recommendations from the [Centre for Academic English](#) based on their results on the English Assessment 1 (EA1).
2. [Plagiarism awareness online course](#) is compulsory for all 1st year Doctoral Students and has to be completed prior to the ESA (those progressing from an MRes/MSc at Imperial are exempt)

Content

- a) Brief description of your research area which will be the topic of the thesis
- b) **Length** – typically 2-4 pages
It is too early to write more. Too many pages will not be appreciated. It is a useful skill, not only in academic life, to write about a topic concisely. As your research develops, you may wish to develop this preliminary document into something more substantial. But you may end up solving a different problem, perhaps more interesting, than the one you began with.
- c) A list of mathematics [postgraduate courses/activities](#) and [Graduate School professional development skills courses](#) you plan to take in your first year.

Aim

- d) ensure communication between the student and the supervisor
- e) provide description of possible project
- f) assess potential of project

How does it work?

- g) Discuss your plan in detail with your supervisor(s).
- h) Submit the RPC through the Maths PhD Milestones online system (you will receive an auto-reminder email with the link to the system one month prior to the due date).
- i) Upload the online plagiarism certificate as PDF on the Maths PhD Milestones online system + indicate your status with regards to the EA1.
- j) The supervisor(s) and the Section Tutor will read it, and decide whether:
 - i. You are communicating well with your supervisor.
 - ii. You have a clear idea, for this stage, of what you will be doing.
 - iii. That the problem is of a reasonable level, neither trivial nor too difficult.
 - iv. Whether the courses you plan to take are appropriate.

Possible outcomes

- k) Progress
- l) Re-submission (within a month of first submission)

Important notes!

1. [Plagiarism awareness online course](#) is compulsory for all 1st year Doctoral Students and has to be completed prior to the ESA (those progressing from an MSc at Imperial are exempt).
2. You must contact your supervisor and section tutor for feedback on your RCP.
3. Badly written or badly thought out reports will need to be improved and re-submitted.
4. It is the student responsibility to check that they have indeed passed this milestone, by checking their record on [Student e-Service](#).

100 Hours of Postgraduate Courses/Activities (due at 18-24 months - LSR milestone requirement)

Note that all students are required to have taken 100 hours of PG courses/activities in their first 2 years of study.

You should aim to take a wider range of courses than just those specific to your thesis topic – Taught Courses in Mathematics – these courses may be taken from the [TCC](#), [LTCC](#), [Mathematical Finance Graduate School](#), [Imperial College MSc programmes](#), summer schools, conferences, seminars, reading groups or similar activities (all appropriately assessed) outside your own specific area of specialisation. **Active participation as a solver at the [Math Helpdesk](#) can also count towards the 100 hours (agree it with your supervisor).** The aim is to broaden, as well as deepen, your mathematical education.

Remember to agree on the activities with your supervisor.

[LTCC](#) courses (15 hours)

[TCC](#) courses (generally of 20 hours)

[Mathematical Finance Graduate School](#) courses (8-15 or 20-30 hours)

[Imperial College MSc](#) courses (30 hours of lectures)

Students progressing from the programmes below can count hours from courses taken in year 1 towards these 100 hours:

- MRes in Stochastic Analysis and Mathematical Finance (Imperial)
- CDT Mathematics of Planet Earth (Imperial)
- CDT Geometry Number Theory (UCL)
- CDT Financial Computing Analytics (UCL)

Professional development skills courses

All PhD students are expected to complete a programme of professional skills courses as prescribed by the Graduate School. Failure to complete the requisite training may result in a student's registration being transferred from PhD to MPhil or in a student being barred from entering the PhD (or MPhil) examination. See 4.2 of the [Regulations for the award of PhD and MPhil](#).

- Students must complete 4 courses, 2 by the Early Stage Review and another 2 by the Late Stage Review. See the [Graduate School Professional Development Skills](#) website for details.

If you have not completed this requirement, the College may transfer your registration to MPhil. If you subsequently fulfil the professional skills development requirement, and have otherwise successfully completed the Early Stage Assessment, the department may request a transfer of registration from MPhil to PhD. The date of PhD registration will, in this case, be taken as the date of your initial PhD registration.