

M.Sc. Dissertation in Economics

Outline

- Aims of workshop
- Timeline
- Dissertation
- Evaluation criteria

Dissertation Workshop :

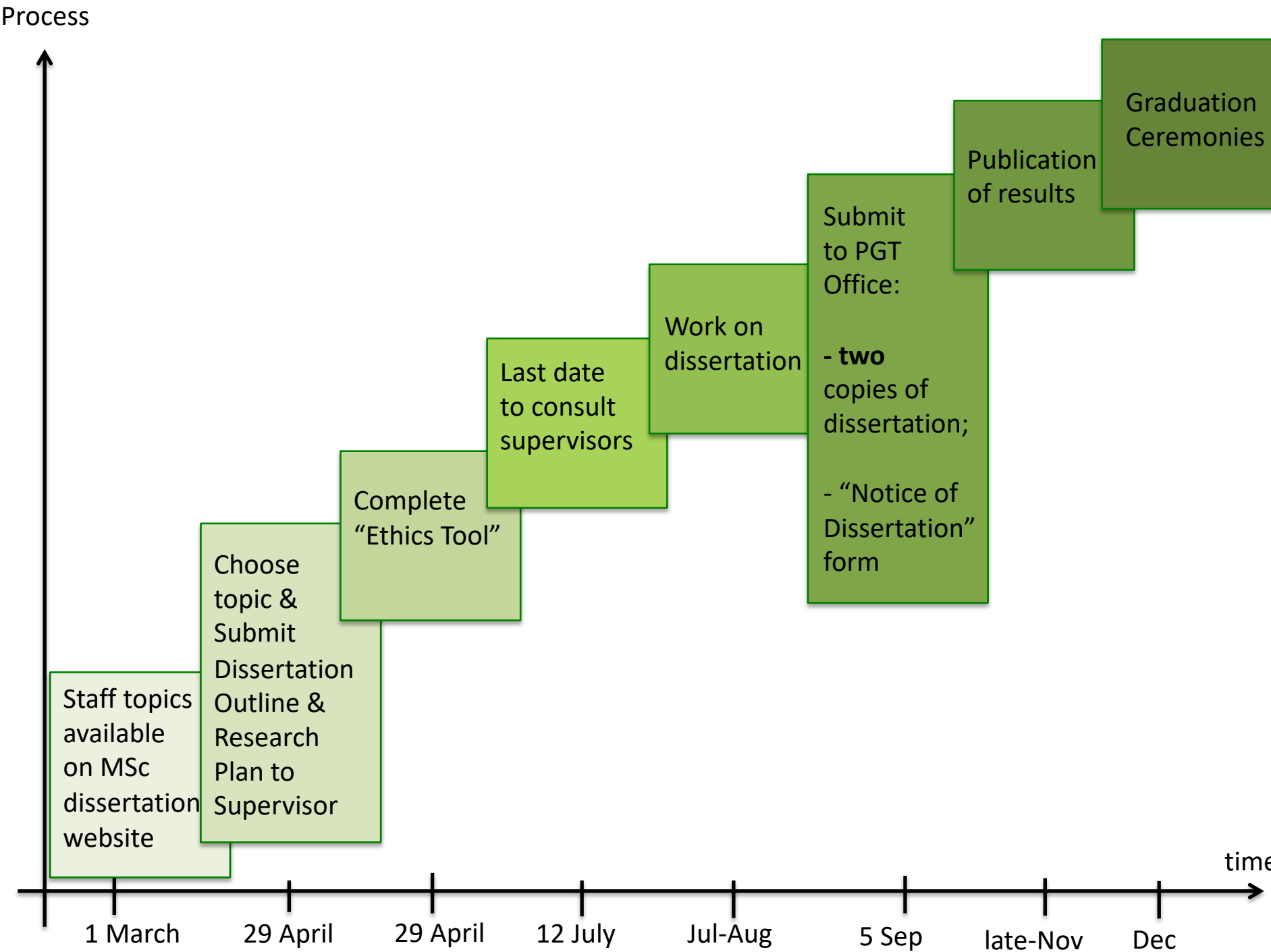
Aims and Objectives

Aims:

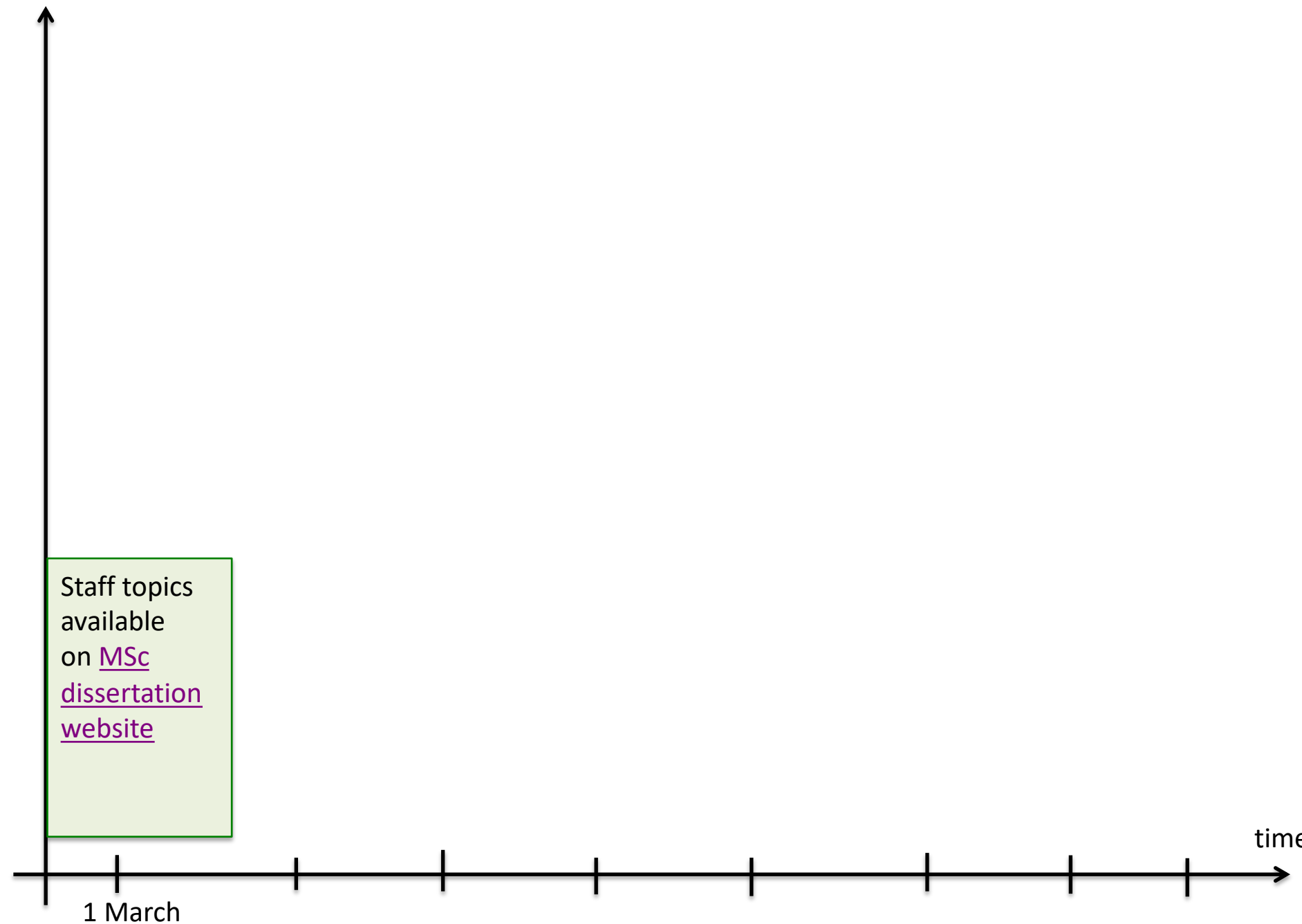
- to inform you of the regulations and submission and other deadlines for MSc dissertations;
- to explain how you can identify a suitable dissertation topic and supervisor;
- to explain the role of the dissertation supervisor;
- to explain the format for MSc dissertations and the appropriate use of others' work in preparing dissertations.

Timeline





Process



Topic Choice

- Each staff member is allocated a fixed number of students, based on teaching allocation.
- Each member of staff advertises topics they want to supervise. Topics can be widely or narrowly defined.
- Students are permitted to choose their own topic, but will need to write their own proposal and find their own supervisor
- Supervisors and Students are matched on a first come first serve basis
- **Deadline: All supervisor arrangements to be made by 29th of April**

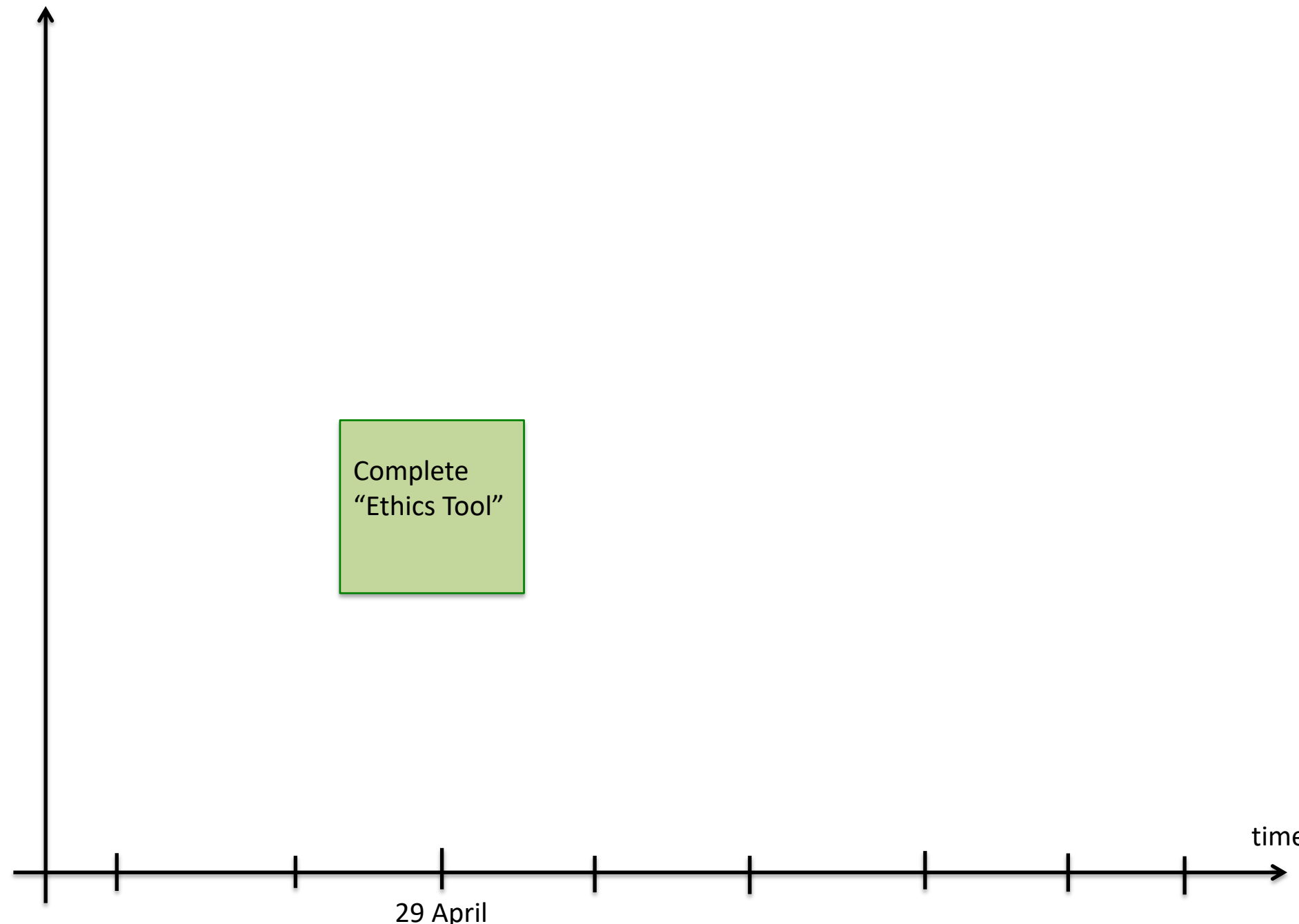
Process

Choose
topic &
Submit
Dissertation
Outline &
Research
Plan to
Supervisor

29 April

time

Process



Complete
"Ethics Tool"

29 April

time

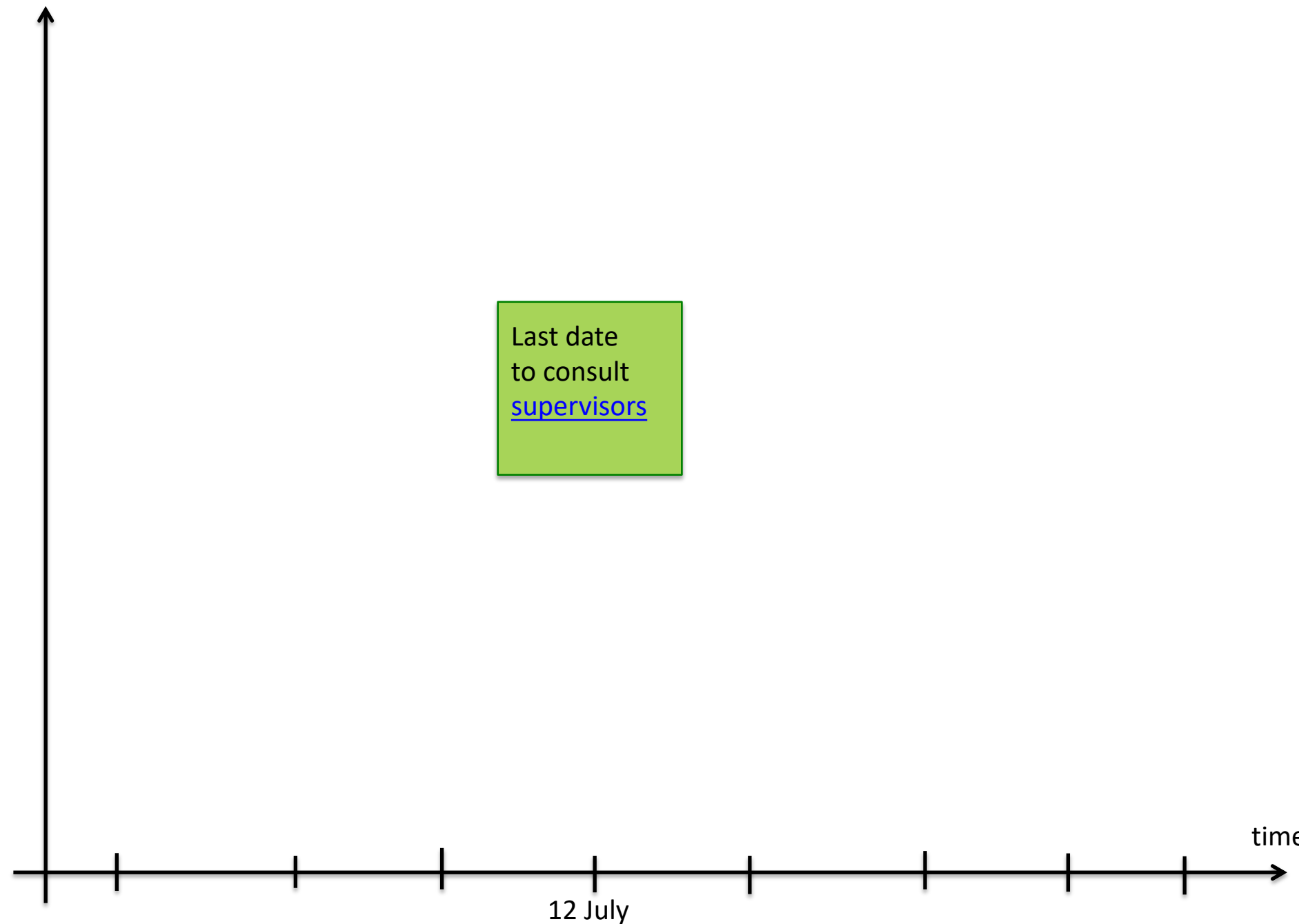
Ethics tool

- First go to website:

<http://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/student-intranet/postgraduate/postgraduate-taught/ethical-approval-process/>

- Complete Ethics Decision Tool

Process



Last date
to consult
[supervisors](#)

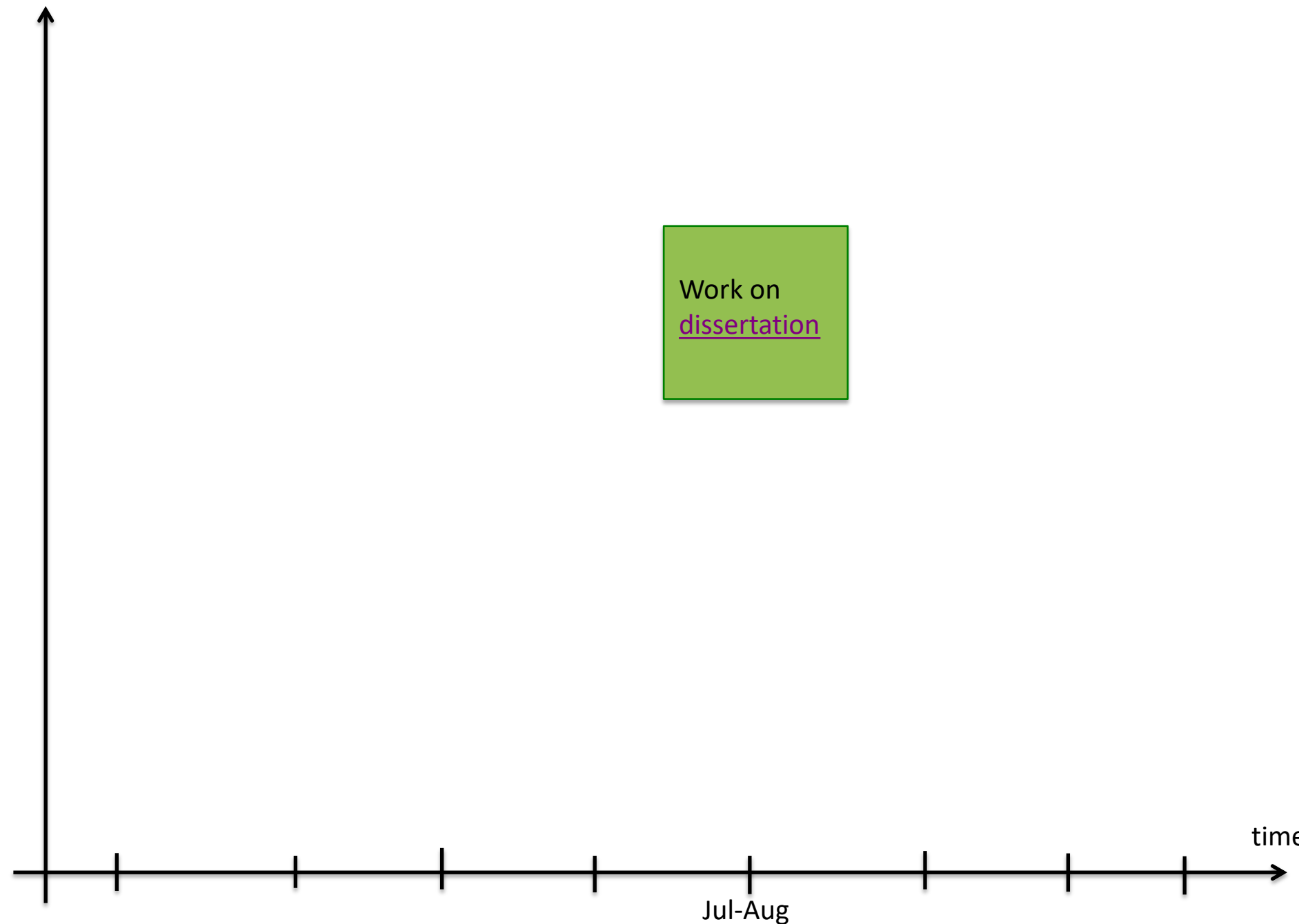
12 July

time

Supervisor

- Meet to discuss Research Plan (written by student)
- Departmental benchmark: 4 one hour meetings
- Supervisors may not be available between 12 July and early September
- Supervisors will not read a draft of your thesis
- They will guide and discuss your ideas
- The supervision process is student-led

Process



Jul-Aug

Features of chosen topic

1. Interesting to **you**
2. What is my contribution?
 - A totally new question
 - An existing question but new approach
 - An existing question but new dataset (country, time period)
 - A new technique
 - A comparison of techniques
 - A literature review

Overall dissertation structure

- Title page
- List of contents
- Other lists
- Abstract (max. 300 words)
- Declaration
- Copyright statement
- Main content (12,000-15,000 words)

Main content structure

Typically will include:

- Introduction
- Literature review
- Data/empirical strategy (if empirical dissertation)
- Set up/model/methodology (if theory)
- Results/discussion
- Conclusions

Your first Task

- Read papers and write short summaries (app one A4 page)
- Familiarise yourself with structure of papers on your chosen topic
- Read examples of dissertations from other students

Identifying the purpose of papers

1. Research questions
 - a) What are they?
 - b) Why are they interesting questions?
2. How are they answering that question?
3. How does their paper fit into the literature and what is their contribution to the literature?
4. A short summary of what the author's conclusions are.

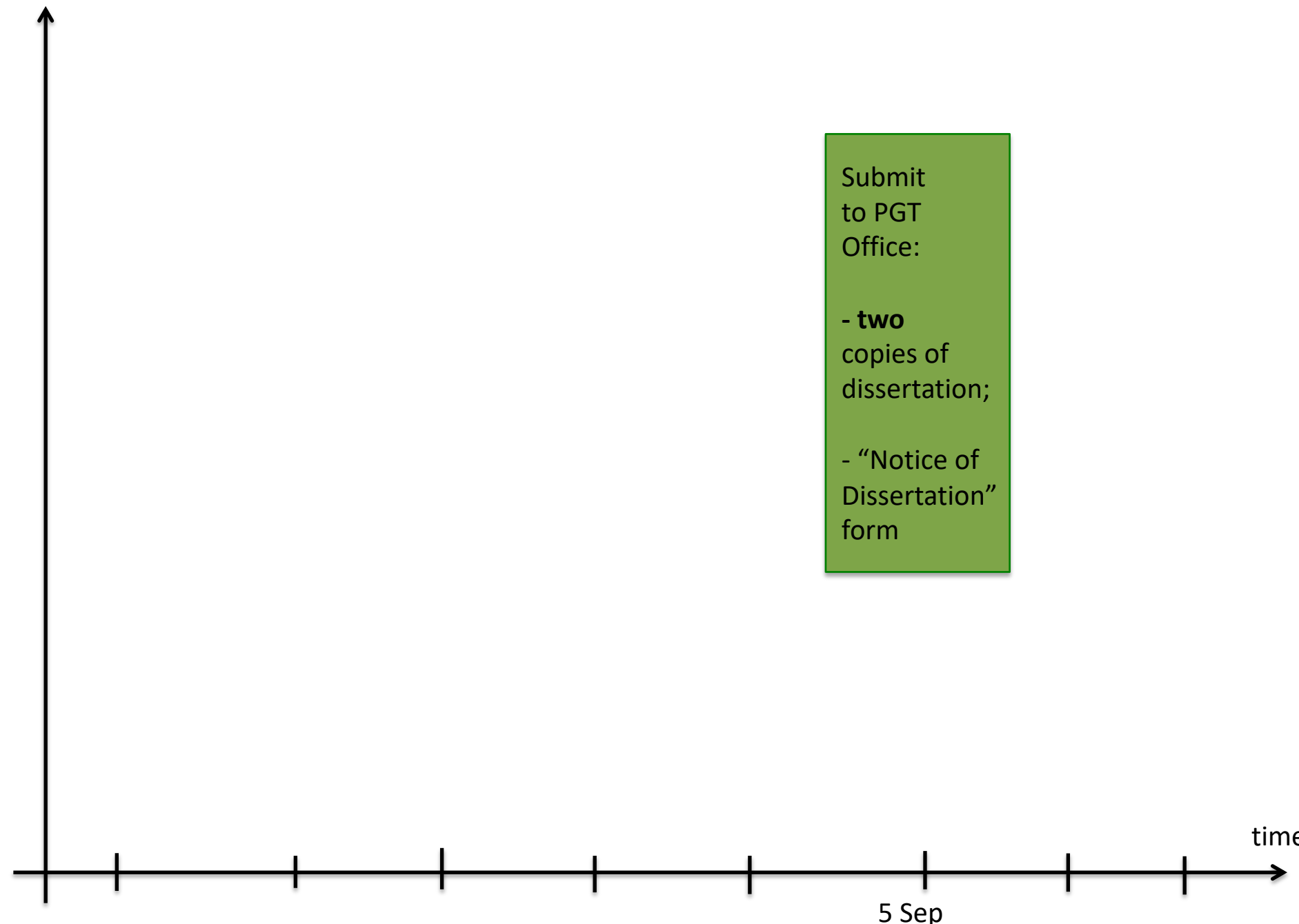
Your introduction

- i. What is your Research Question (RQ)?
- ii. Why?
- iii. How does it fit in the literature?
- iv. How are you going to answer your RQ?
- v. Your findings
- vi. Outline of dissertation

Plagiarism

- Plagiarism is the theft or use of someone else's work without proper acknowledgement, presenting the material as if it were one's own. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and the consequences are severe.
- Familiarise yourself with how to acknowledge and reference resources on the dissertation [website](#)

Process



Evaluation Criteria

- i. the candidate's treatment of the topic, highlighting any particular merits or defects of the dissertation
- ii. whether there is evidence of the candidate's competence in undertaking independent study, understanding appropriate techniques and making critical use of published work and/or source materials
- iii. evidence of critical analysis and awareness and understanding of research methodologies
- iv. whether the candidate has demonstrated their ability to carry out empirical and/or theoretical work in a satisfactory manner
- v. whether there is a satisfactory discussion of the purpose of the investigation
- vi. whether the dissertation is clearly written and presented in a satisfactory form
- vii. any factual errors
- viii. any typographical errors which would be likely to mislead a reader

Process



Publication
of results

Late Nov

Process

Graduation Ceremonies



time

Dec

THANK YOU

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