

## First Year PhD Reports

All research students are required to produce a written report of their first year of study, which should be submitted in the eighth month after starting. The report will be assessed by *viva voce* examination soon after it has been submitted, and a satisfactory performance is required for progression to the second year of a research degree and for upgrading from probationary to full PhD status. The two examiners will normally be your independent advisor and another member of academic staff working in a similar field.

Since the report is due after only 8.5 months of research, you will not be expected to have completed any work of publishable quality at this stage, although some students may have done so. Instead, the purpose of the report is to demonstrate that:

- you have a good understanding of the background physics of your research subject;
- you are familiar with the research literature in your field of study;
- you have familiarised yourself with the experimental and theoretical techniques that will be required for your research;
- you are capable of writing a report in good scientific English;
- you understand what is required to obtain a PhD;
- you have made progress in the Doctoral Development Programme according to your Training Needs Analysis.

Your report should therefore have the following structure:

1. Introduction.
2. Brief survey of the background physics and key research literature.
3. Discussion of the experimental and/or theoretical techniques that will be used for your research.
4. Discussion of preliminary results.
5. Research plan for years 2 and 3.
6. Summary of activity for the Doctoral Development Programme.

You should have already completed a more extensive literature review, and so the literature review in #2 should be brief and focus only on the key papers for your thesis work. As regards #4, the progress made in the first year will vary widely from student to student, and so you should discuss with your supervisor what is appropriate to include in this section.

The report should be submitted by emailing the report to [physics-phd@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:physics-phd@sheffield.ac.uk) by the deadline that will be given to you by the Postgraduate Research admin. team. The length limit of the report is 5000 words.

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