

# M.Sc. Dissertation in Economics

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# Outline

- Aims and Objectives
- Timeline
- Dissertation
- Evaluation criteria

# Dissertation Workshop :

## Aims and Objectives

### Aims:

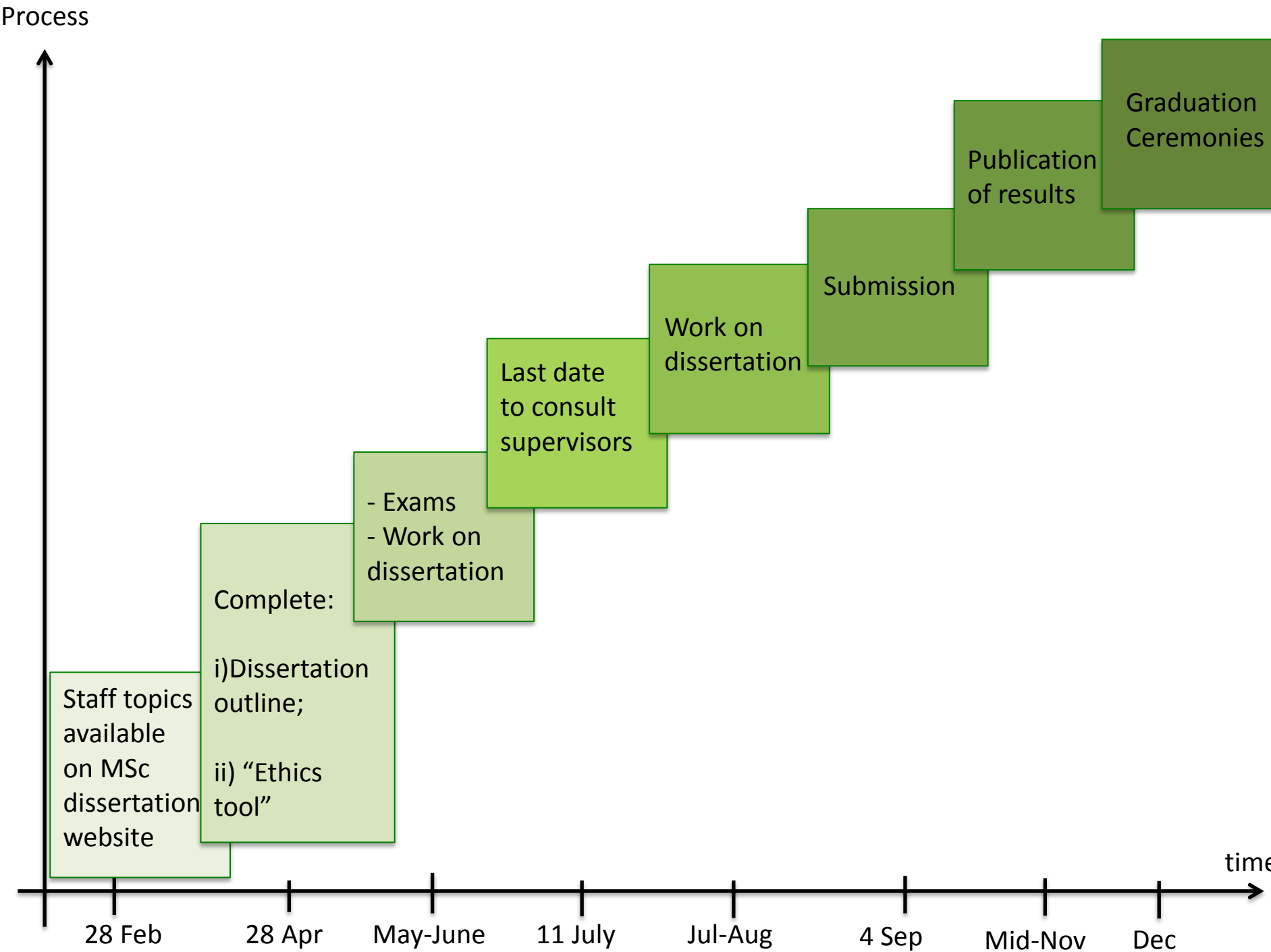
- to inform you of the regulations and submission and other deadlines for MSc dissertations;
- to explain how you can identify a suitable dissertation topic and supervisor;
- to explain the role of the dissertation supervisor;
- to explain the format for MSc dissertations and the appropriate use of others'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

### Objectives:

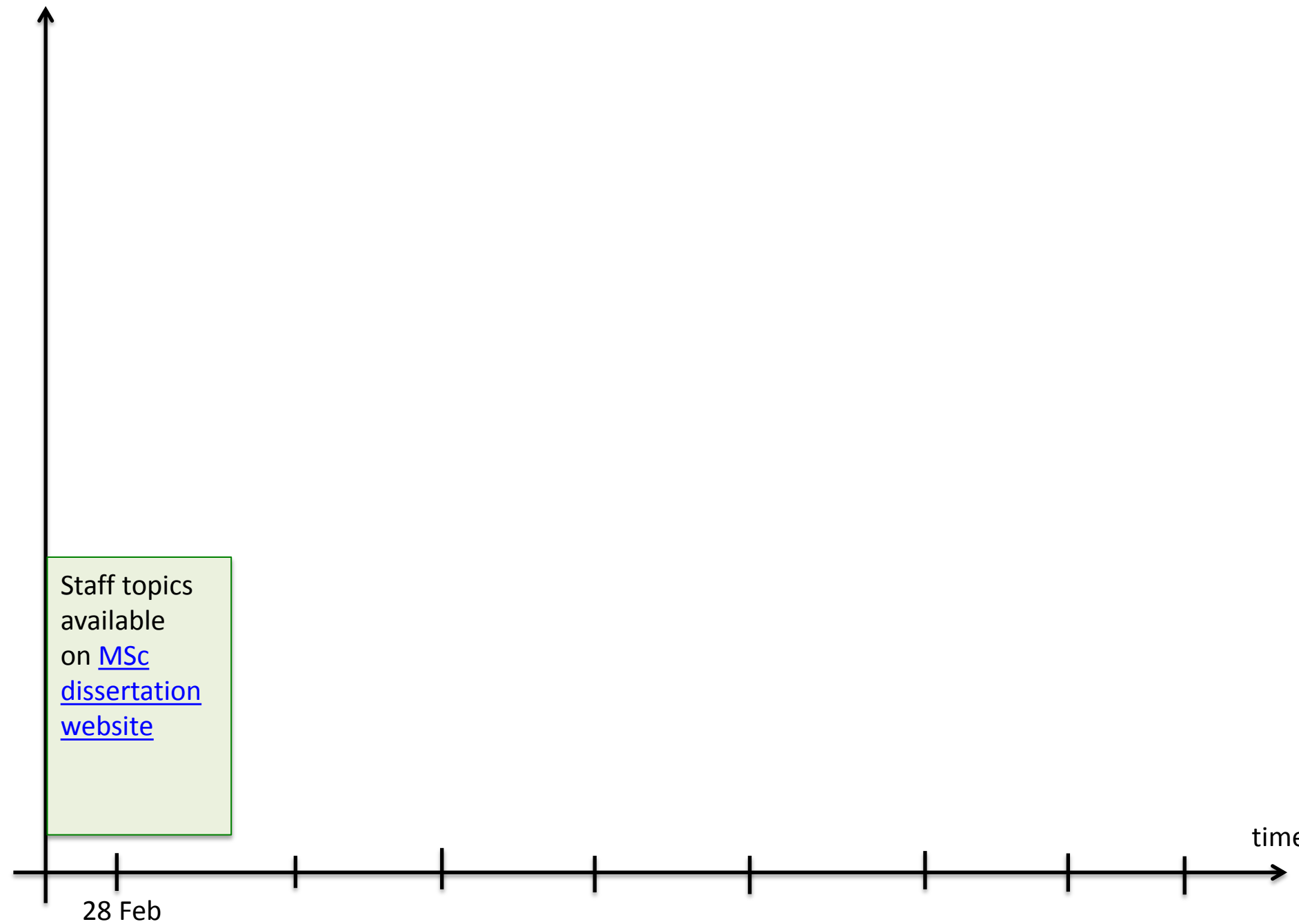
- a dissertation title and outline;
- a research plan;

# 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 28 April**

# 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



Process

Choose  
topic &  
Submit  
[Dissertation  
Outline &  
Research  
Plan](#) to  
Supervisor

Complete  
“Ethics Tool”

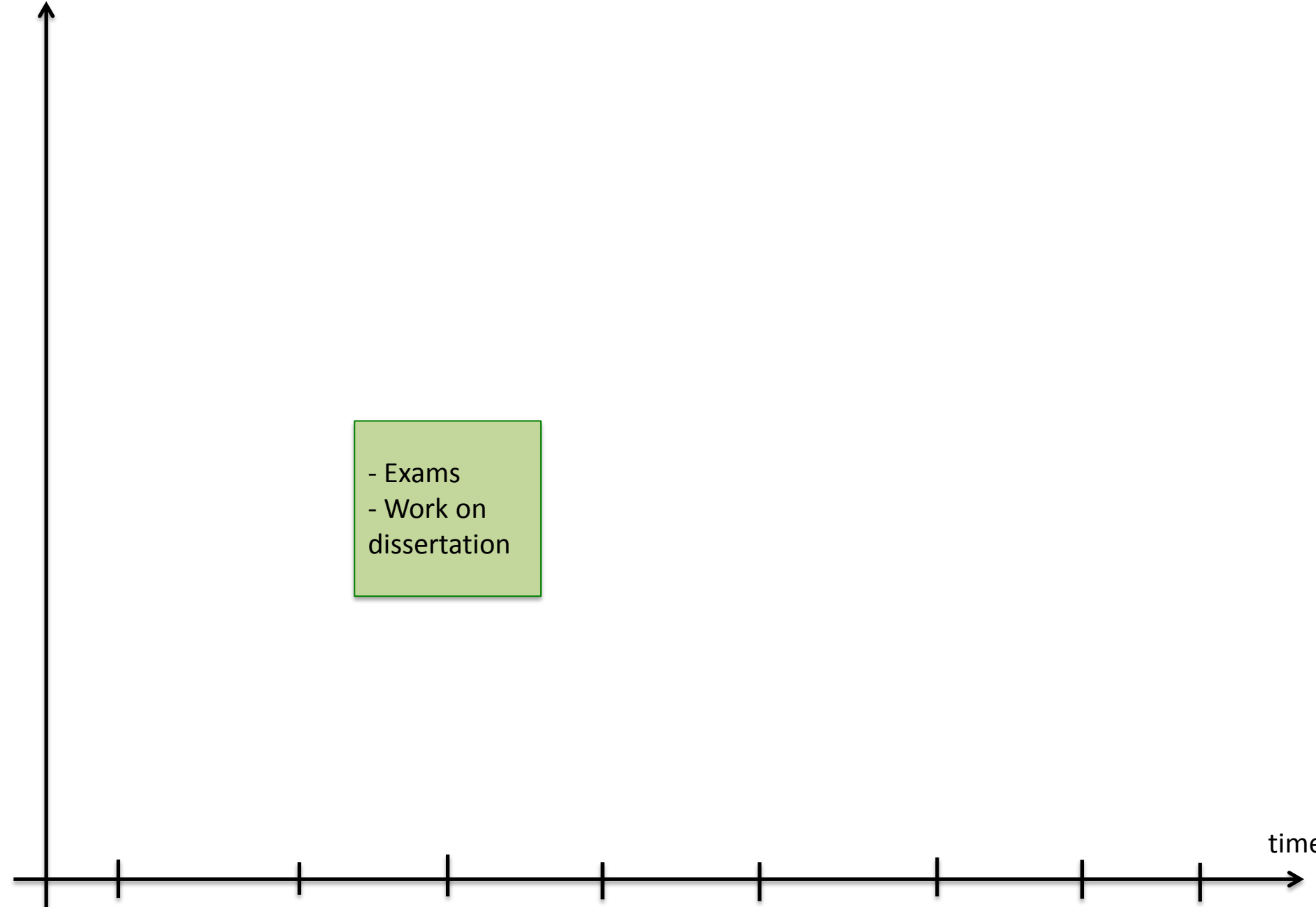
28 Apr

time

# Ethics tool

- First go to [website](#)
- Complete [Ethics Decision Tool](#)

Process



May-June

time

# Identifying literature

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 conclusion is.

# Think about your analysis

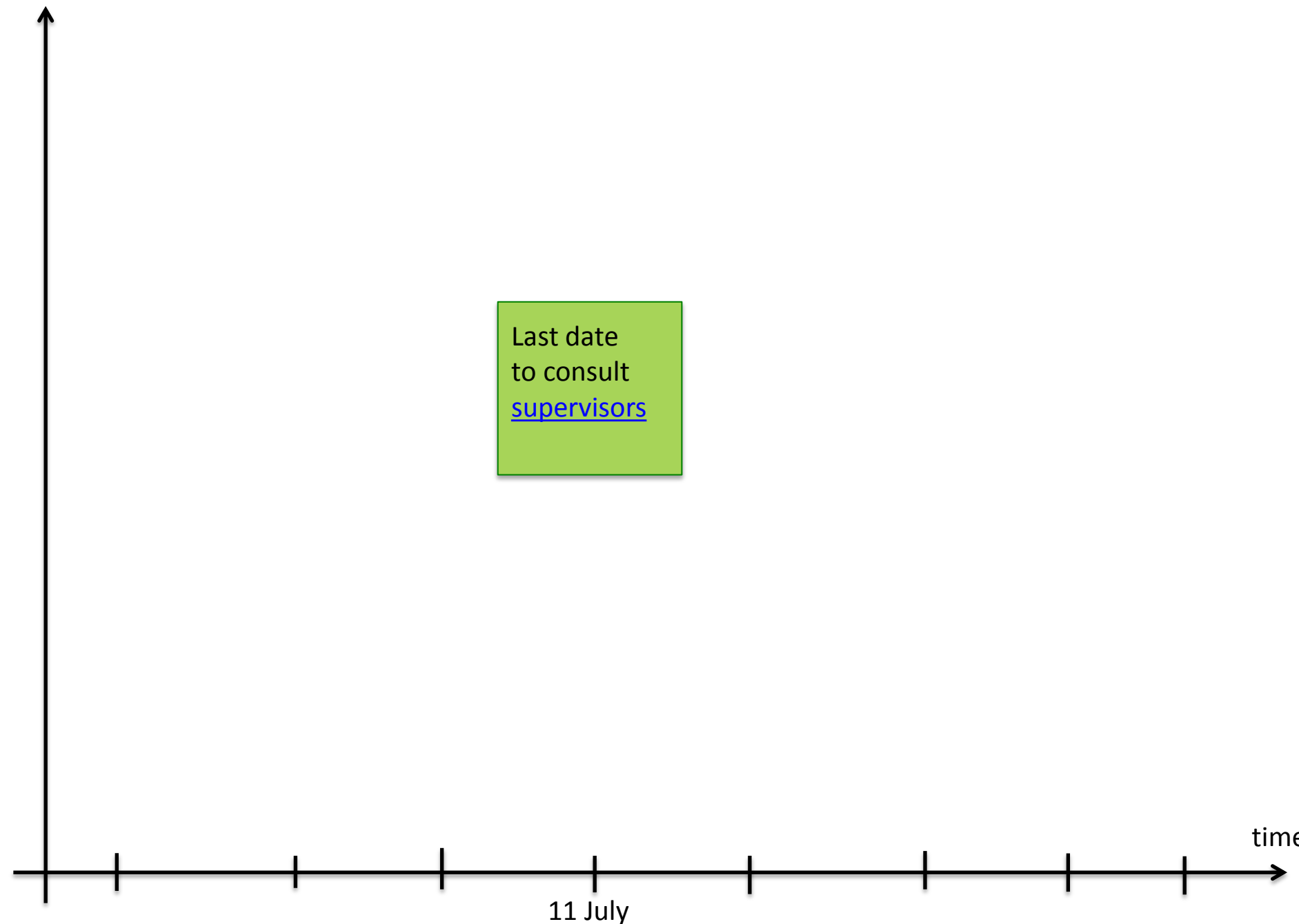
a) If empirical:

- a. Data
- b. Methods
- c. Identification strategy

b) If theoretical:

- a. Question
- b. Steps of proof

Process



Last date  
to consult  
supervisors

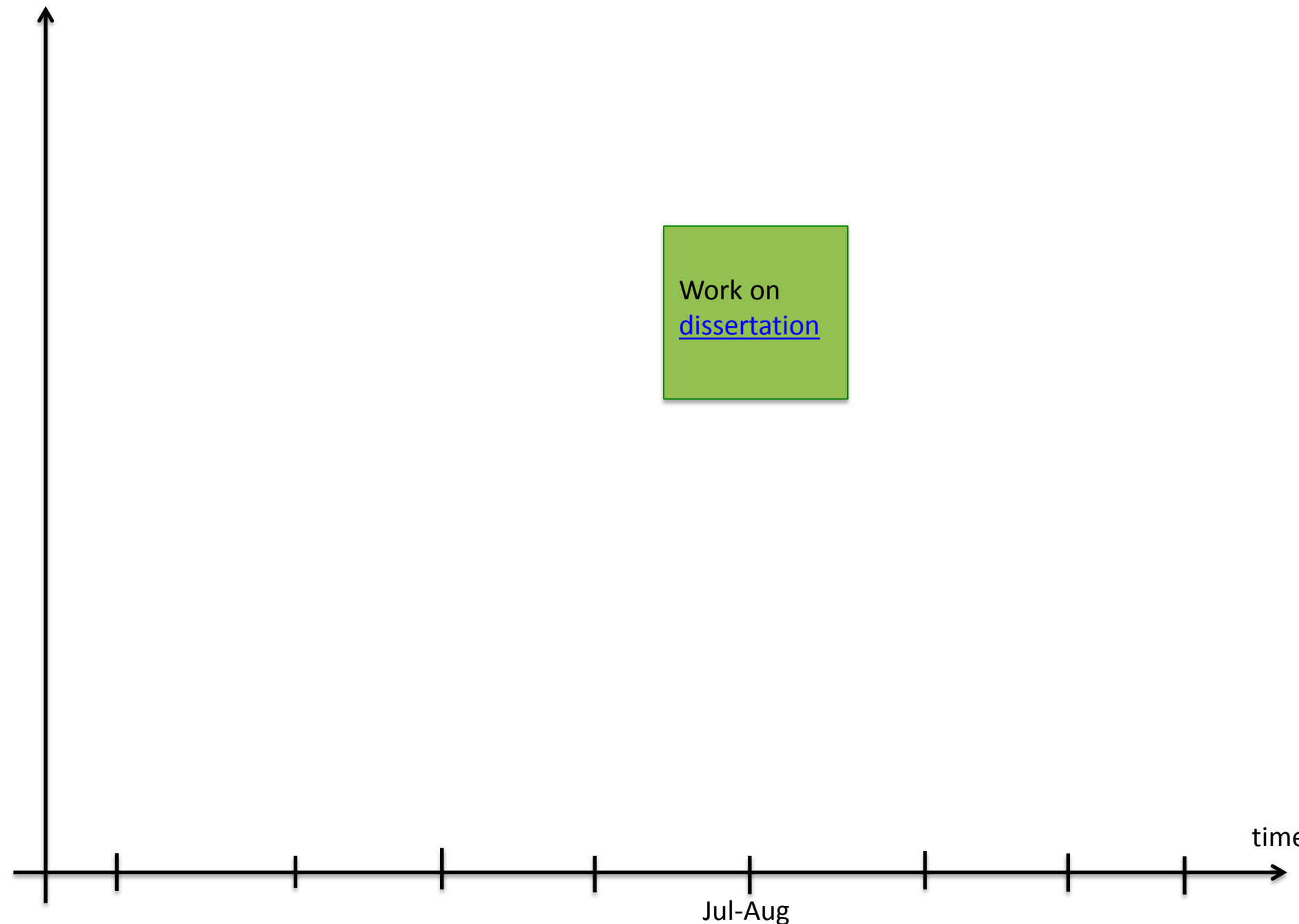
11 July

time

# Supervisor

- Meet to discuss Research Plan (written by student)
- Departmental benchmark: 4 one hour meetings
- Supervisors may not be available between 11 July and 4 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



# Overall dissertation structure

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

# 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

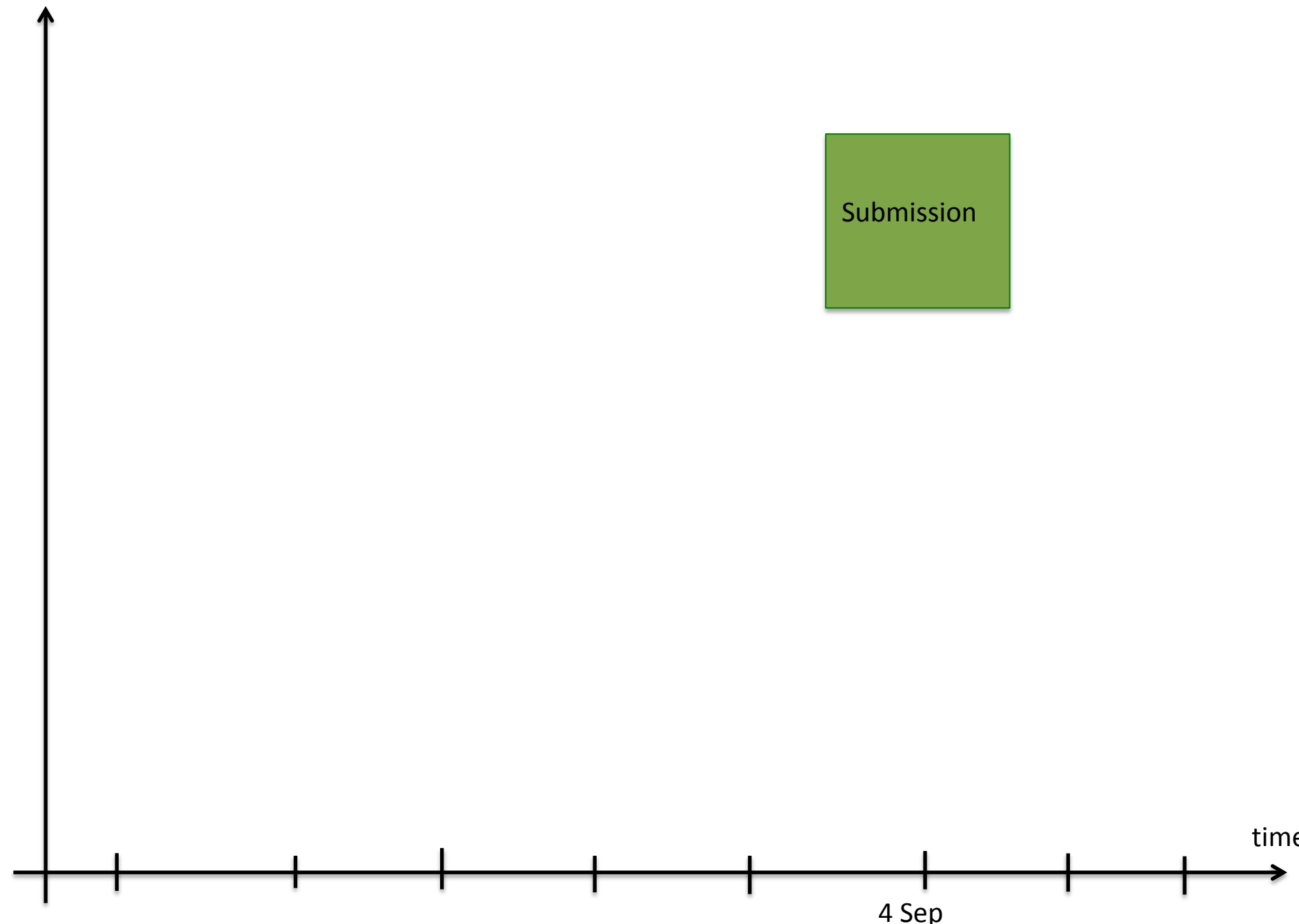
# Your introduction

- 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



Submission

time

4 Sep

# Submission

- Submit to PGT office:
  - i. Two copies of dissertation;
  - ii. “[Notice of Dissertation](#)” form
- Submit a copy via turnitin

# 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

Mid-Nov



Process

Graduation Ceremonies



time

Dec

# THANK YOU

Contacts:

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