A thesis prospectus should present a thesis of intellectual rigour that can be completed within the time frame of the degree. The prospectus situates the project within the relevant literature, fields, and theoretical frameworks. The thesis prospectus is a written statement (maximum 10 pages, double-spaced, exclusive of abstract, notes, appendices, and bibliography) of the proposed original thesis research.

The thesis prospectus must contain:

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- 1. A precise definition of the topic and original research question(s);
- 2. A demonstration of a critical awareness of the pertinent literature;
- 3. Argumentation concerning the perceived significance of the topic in relation to existing knowledge and/or theory in the area; and
- 4. A statement and defence of the research methods and general methodology to be employed.

committee on a mutually agreed date and time, usually no later than June 15<sup>th</sup> of . While this event is referred to as a prospectus defence, the process is best understood as a conversation between the student and their supervisory committee as a means to prepare the student to conduct thesis research. The MA thesis prospectus defence is typically not public.

The prospectus defence is relatively less formal than an actual thesis defence. No forms (i.e. Approval of Examining Committee, etc.) or notice of defence need to be sent to Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Deadlines are likewise less formal and will be at the discretion of the supervisory committee.

Following presentation of the MA Thesis Prospectus, MA Thesis Prospectus Defence Report and submits it to the Program Assistant (<u>gradsecsa@sfu.ca</u>). Provided that no revisions to the prospectus are needed, the student must then submit a signed Research Plan agreed upon by the supervisor, committee member(s), and the student.

The Research Plan must be submitted to the Program Assistant within two weeks of successfully presenting the thesis prospectus. The Research Plan must include dated milestones, planned meeting dates and times, and contact information for the student and committee members. It is the responsibility of the student and the committee members to notify each other and the Program Assistant of any changes.