Relevant dates and deadlines (tentative):

First-year paper (kursovaia rabota) AKA research proposal:

7 November	Submission of first-year-paper topics via the LMS system for formal approval by supervisor (the topic as well as supervisor can be changed any time before 9 May - see below)
28 November	Topics are approved by the Academic Council
10 January	First very short draft version of the abstract of the MA thesis research proposal (aka First-year paper) of about 5000 characters/800 words -long is submitted to the Research Seminar, with subsequent discussion of these drafts arranged at the agreed time.
25-27 February TBC	Presentation of your thesis project at the HSE Saint Petersburg Winter School (TBC)
9 May 23.59	Deadline for submitting the request for first- year-paper topic or supervisor change
12 May, 23.59	Deadline for the first year paper submission for its pre-defence
15-21 May (TBC)	Pre-defence of the first year paper
22 May	Deadline to change your supervisor and/or the title of your first-year paper
16 June, 23.59	Deadline for the first year paper submission to the LMS
22-26 June (TBC)	Defence of the first year paper paper