

Financial Support for PGR students

Covid-19 Scholarship Scheme

The purpose of this scholarship scheme is to provide PhD and MPhil students with stipend support at the UKRI rate of payment for a period of up to 12 weeks beyond the end of minimum candidature for students who have been impacted by Covid-19 disruption.

Funding from this scholarship scheme is not available for those students whose original funding body already provides stipend support for longer than 3-years or has agreed to fund a specific extension to an original 3-year period because of the COVID-19 lockdown.

Further information is available [here](#).

Tuition Fee Free Extensions to Minimum Candidature

As a research student, you have a period of minimum candidature during which tuition fees are paid. This is normally the period when you are expected to conduct and complete your primary research (e.g. full-time PhD students have a 3-year period of minimum candidature, part-time PhD students have a 6-year period of minimum candidature). If you require any additional time for primary research beyond this minimum candidature period, further tuition fees are normally required for this.

However, if you find that your primary research has been disrupted due to the Covid-19 situation, we will support a tuition-fee-free extension beyond the normal end of minimum candidature e.g. you will not have to pay extra for this extension. This will enable you to complete the primary research that you were unable to during the disrupted period.

Requests for a required period of tuition fee-free extension to minimum candidature should be submitted through [ePortfolio](#) and be supported by documentation already gained via the online web forms that we created at the end of March 2020, through the APR and the during the review of impact on progress. However, PG Deans may require further supporting information in support of your request.

Each request will be considered on a case by case basis by the PG Deans based on the impact of Covid-19 on your ability to progress with and/or complete your primary research. This allows us to have a documented statement of impact and a recommendation of additional 'candidature' from the supervisor for consideration by the PG Dean.

If your request for a tuition fee-free extension to minimum candidature is approved, please note that your thesis submission deadline will remain unchanged as our overarching aim is to support you to complete within your original timescale where this is possible.

If you believe that you will require an extension to your minimum candidature, you should submit a request through [ePortfolio](#) normally within 3 months of your end of minimum candidature.

Tuition Fee Free Extensions to Thesis Submission Deadline

Guidance on tuition fees for PGR students who require additional time for writing up beyond the end of the 'pending submission year'.

The University is prioritising support for those research students who are reaching the end of their studies (e.g. their thesis submission deadline).

If you are due to submit your thesis up to the 31st March 2021, the University understands that your ability to complete your thesis by your required deadline may be affected. This may be due to a variety of factors such as IT equipment availability, lack of access to resources and/or personal issues – including caring

October 2020

responsibilities. In order to mitigate against these factors, the University is supportive of you requesting to extend your submission deadline date by up to 3 months in the first instance, should you need this as a result of the current circumstances. A further extension of up to 3 months may be possible, if your progress continues to be disrupted. Any extension approved due to Covid-19 disruption will be fee free.

Applications for an extension to your thesis submission deadline should be submitted through [ePortfolio](#) and be supported by details of the impact on your progress and your plan for submission by the extended deadline. (The supporting evidence can be documentation submitted through your APR and/or any review of impact on your progress.)

If you believe that you will require an extension to your thesis submission deadline, you should submit a request through [ePortfolio](#) when your deadline is approaching, normally within 3 months of your thesis submission deadline.

We will review this '31st March 2021' date at the end of January 2021 and continue to do this on a rolling programme throughout the 2020/21 academic year.

Student Financial Support Fund

You may be able to access the Student Financial Support Fund. This fund is available to PGR students but is only intended to assist students in cases of unexpected or immediate financial difficulty. Awards are therefore designed to alleviate immediate difficulty while students are encouraged to pursue alternative funding sources. Further information is available [here](#).
