**Guidance for Examiners and Supervisors of PGRs concerning COVID-19 related disruption to research.**

All University of Birmingham (UoB) PGR students have been asked to do their best to engage with their studies during the period affected by COVID-19.

If the PGR and their supervisory team feel that the PGRs studies have been seriously delayed by COVID-19, PGRs are able to apply for an extension. This extension may be applied to the minimum registration (normally registered) or maximum registration (thesis awaited) dependent upon individual circumstances. More information can be found on our [webpages](https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/student/graduateschool/pgr/covid/covid-19-extensions-policy-and-criteria.aspx).

PGRs have been encouraged to amend their research plans to try to mitigate the disruption to research as best they can. For example, by re-directing research, altering methodologies, and working on new or amended research questions. These best efforts to mitigate the restrictions to planned research will inevitably, in some cases, result in altered theses.

Therefore, under some circumstances the disruption to a PGR’s planned research caused by the COVID-19 pandemic may need to be taken into account in milestone and thesis assessments. Some PGRs may need or wish to complete their milestone or thesis examination on time, but have not been able to conduct all of the work they intended.

The University of Birmingham has therefore published a process to allow students to declare disruption to research caused by COVID-19. More information can be found on the [UGS webpages](https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/student/graduateschool/index.aspx).

Supervisors and Examiners are advised to, where appropriate, make allowances when considering the work contained within the thesis. For example, there can be some flexibility in consideration of the ***quantity and scope*** of work produced.

Such allowances must not compromise the integrity of the award and academic standards must be maintained in all cases. The work produced by PGRs must meet the requirements for the award of the degree for which the thesis was submitted, as set out in [Regulations of the University of Birmingham](https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/registry/legislation/regulations/index.aspx). (Section 7.4.1 c for masters by research; 7.4.1 c and d for MPhils and 7.4.1 c, d and e for doctoral research degrees)