



Information for Postgraduate Research students

Supervision

All supervision will continue online. Please liaise with your supervisors to make arrangements.

Vivas

Vivas will be conducted online as a matter of course (remote vivas). If you would rather have an in-situ viva where you can be present, please let your supervisor know as soon as possible and we will see whether we can accommodate your wish. If this has any consequences for registration periods, the necessary adjustments will be made.

PGR training sessions

PGR training sessions are conducted online using Blackboard Collaborate until further notice. Slides and recordings (if available) are accessible on the Doctoral Studies Weblearn site for your convenience. The programme for 2020/21 will be announced shortly.

Submission deadlines

Submissions for the autumn RSPG (RD2 and RD2T) are due on 5 November 2020. The date reflects the later start of the semester. You should indicate on the forms if anything has affected your application; the University would be sympathetic towards reasons connected with the Coronavirus situation.

Research Student Progress Groups (RSPGs) will be scheduled in the week commencing 7 December. Soft-bound submissions will be accepted online in pdf format for remote vivas and you should continue preparing your hardbound thesis as planned. Once you have done this, please let us know and we will advise on the best way to deliver it based on the situation at the time.

Drop-in sessions

Instead of face-to-face drop-in sessions with the Postgraduate Research Student Coordinator, please email us at research@londonmet.ac.uk and we will deal with your enquiry as quickly as possible.

Please continue to monitor your London Met emails and Weblearn as we will keep you updated when new information becomes available.

If you have any questions or concerns, please liaise in advance with your supervisors and/or the Research and Postgraduate Office at research@londonmet.ac.uk so that we can ensure swift resolution and minimal disruption.

What should I do if I am prevented from carrying out my research?

Postgraduate research (PGR) students should talk to their supervisors (and Course

Leader in the case of Professional Doctorates) about face-to-face interviews as you might be able to move this aspect online. If social observation is involved you might have to postpone, but do discuss with your supervisor the possibility of tweaking your research. If there are any difficulties around postponing data collection, conducting interviews and focus groups, PGR students should clearly reflect that, stating the specific difficulties encountered and then possibly apply to intermit your studies. Students who have a valid reason can intermit their studies, during which period no fees would be due.

During periods when you cannot carry out your empirical research, read further literature, look at methodology, do the reading. Once you can do your interviews, observations, travel or experiments, you'll be much better prepared and have a higher level of knowledge. You should also talk to your supervisor to see if anything can be reorganised in your PGR programme so you don't lose too much time.

What will be the impact of not being able to attend conferences and will my transfer request from MPhil to PhD be affected by this?

Many conferences are being delivered online however, where this is not the case or the timing was changed, under the 'attendance at conferences section on the RD2 form, explain the social distancing measures preventing you from attending conferences and this will not be held against you. The transfer process from MPhil to PhD will not be put at risk as interviews can be held remotely.

Will my transfer to PhD be affected because I have not had sufficient access to the labs?

You should explain on the RD2 form that you could not undertake sufficient practical work but still apply for transfer. You should be prepared to hear that we'll put your transfer back for half a year with no negative consequences.

Can the Coronavirus be cited as a hindrance to research?

Yes, and you can apply for an extension but please do so only when you come up against your maximum time period; this would be considered sympathetically so long as you write in a well-organised manner and indicate how the situation might have reflected on your research findings, stating exactly why Coronavirus caused the delay. You can also set out the specific problems you encountered and the lengths you took to resolve these issues when wrapping up your thesis, especially if you're undertaking qualitative research.

Can applications for extensions be made for a full year?

Although applications for extensions can only be made for 3 or 6 months, you can put in repeated applications for extraordinary extensions. This is a new process and we'll look favourably on the application if you have a good reason for why you've lost time and a good case for the extension. Extensions do have fees attached to them.

If the Coronavirus crisis continues into next year what is the process for taking a 12-month sabbatical?

The University would call that an intermission and we make decisions on a case-by-case basis. Be explicit about why you're applying. (Do consider, first, whether you might be able to rearrange your research.)