

You SAID, we ASKED
(PGT Student provision in light of COVID-19)

- What will my progression look like? Will I be able to take an extension?

The University is advising that “PGT students should continue their studies to the best of their ability under the circumstances and attempt to graduate within the normal timeframe if possible.” Adjustments to Masters’ dissertations should have been discussed with your supervisor if you are lab or fieldwork based, in order to complete alternative assessment. However, if your work or you have been affected by COVID-19, then there is the opportunity for extension, of up to 3,6,9 or 12 months.

- Will I be charged any additional costs for tuition fees if I choose to take an extension?

No, you should not be charged any additional fees if you choose to take an extension in light of COVID-19.

- How will I support myself financially though? What about extra installments of rent or utility bills that I cannot afford and would not otherwise have had to pay for?

If you find that you cannot afford to support yourself, particularly if you are unable to find work due to COVID-19, the University strongly encourages you to apply for the hardship fund. The application form has been simplified in light of COVID-19 and can be found via the following link:

<https://forms.gle/7SATwC9WNsp1tqHj6>. The University will also be updating their web pages so that it is a more accessible form. In the meantime you can send an email to student support who can provide further advice about completing the form, should you need it.

- What if I am an international student? Might taking an extension interfere with my visa status?

*For international PGT students, please visit the University’s **visa FAQ** or seek advice from Student Services regarding the visa implications of any deferral or break in studies. For any international PGT students experiencing financial hardship as a result of the current circumstances, you should seek advice from student support or apply to the hardship fund, which can be found in point 3 of this document.*

- So how do I apply for an extension?

We strongly encourage you to speak to your supervisor in the first instance, or arrange an appointment with student support, if it is an extension of over 3 months. When you have established what sort of extension is feasible for you, you will need to apply to your school and request the deferral in writing, clearly explaining the reasons why you have chosen to defer and what period of time you will need to extend your course by. You should be aware though, there is no guarantee that your work will be marked any earlier than the agreed deferral date if you choose to make the submission early. This may be something that you need to consider for graduation.

- If you require any further advice, you should get in touch with your head of school or supervisor. You can also contact Student Services by email, live chat, or phone. You can access this information here:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/studentservices/>