

Doctoral College Coronavirus update **Three-month extension granted for doctoral students in their final year**

This is one of a series of occasional updates for doctoral students from the Doctoral College – [previous updates can be found here](#). It's important to also check the [University's student advice](#).

Dear final-year doctoral students,

We are aware that many of you are finding that your ability to focus on your research is being significantly affected by the lockdown resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic. Unlike our Undergraduate and Masters students who are still able to continue with their learning in a virtual format, many of our doctoral students have experienced disruptions to their working pattern that will affect the final phases of research analysis and writing up their thesis.

Recognising that those students nearing the end of their studies may be under even greater pressure due to impending submission deadlines, I am pleased to announce that the University has agreed that **the deadline to submit your thesis will be extended by three months for all students who were in their final 12 months of registration on 1st April 2020**. No tuition fees or writing-up fees will be charged for this additional three-month period of registration.

Students in their final 12 months of registration who are given this three-month extension should note the following:

- This three-month, fee-free extension to the thesis submission deadline applies to any doctoral student* in their final 12 months of registration as of 1st April 2020 [*includes full-time or part-time students on MPhils, PhDs, Integrated PhDs and Professional Doctorates.]
- If you qualify, you do not need to do anything: you will be notified separately.
- This extension applies solely to your thesis submission deadline, and does not relate to funding.
- You are not obliged to use this extra time. If you are in a position to submit your thesis before the end of this extension, then you should still do so.
- This extension will not count towards your maximum permitted extensions entitlement (re. [Regulation 16](#)), nor will it prevent applications for extensions that might be granted for other reasons (e.g. data loss).
- If you feel that you will need longer than three months due to the Coronavirus situation then you can submit a separate request for an extension in [the normal way](#), for the extra time needed.
- If you have already submitted and completed your viva, the deadlines for corrections to your thesis or completion of a revised thesis remain unchanged. If you need an extension to these deadlines you should check with your administrator, and any requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- [Discussions are ongoing as to support for non-final year doctoral students: a separate communication will follow.]

Information for international students studying on a visa

Please contact the Student Immigration Service (SIS) (studentimmigrationservice@bath.ac.uk) for any questions relating to visas. SIS have provided the following guidance for those who qualify for this extension:

- You will not need to extend your visa; you can use the four-month wrap-up period following your current end date which will save a significant amount of money compared with paying for a new visa. Your visa expiry date will then remain the same.
- You can extend your visa if required, and three months will be added. The visa will expire four months after the new course end date.
- You can still apply for the Doctorate Extension Scheme (DES); your DES application needs to be made after your viva but before your PhD is awarded by the Board of Studies (but no more than 60 days before the BoS date). To apply you need to be in the UK and have a valid Tier 4 visa.
- If your course requires ATAS clearance, you need to apply for a new ATAS certificate for any course extension of three months or more, regardless of whether you intend to extend your visa. The ATAS scheme is currently not accepting new applications, but we will advise you what you need to do once this has been confirmed.

It is important that, as a doctoral student, you keep a record of how the Coronavirus pandemic has affected your research, even if you feel at this stage that you do not need to apply for a further extension of registration. The Doctoral College continues to update its Coronavirus [advice](#) to doctoral students on a regular basis, so you should check there first for our latest guidance. Alternatively, you can contact our Programme Administrators using one of the mailboxes below.

A separate communication will follow in response to the recent UKRI announcement regarding funded extensions of up to six months.

Kind regards

Prof Jeremy Bradshaw
Pro Vice Chancellor (International and Doctoral)

Email contacts to Doctoral Programme Administrators:

- Faculty of Engineering and Design: doctoralprogrammes-eng@bath.ac.uk
- Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences: doctoralprogrammes-hss@bath.ac.uk
- Faculty of Science: doctoralprogrammes-sci@bath.ac.uk
- School of Management: doctoralprogrammes-som@bath.ac.uk