

Dear students,

As you may already know, in response to the potential disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic, UKRI and the government have announced that additional funding is being made available to support doctoral students in their final year of funding (<https://www.ukri.org/news/coronavirus-impact-on-ukri-supported-research/#Training%20grants>).

As you are recorded on Je-S (UKRI's Joint Electronic Submission system) as being funded by, or associated with, one of the UK Research Councils, I am contacting you to explain how you might apply to be considered for a funded extension.

Who will be considered for a funded extension?

The latest guidance from UKRI, which was released on 15 May, outlines what needs to be done to collect and report data on those who may be eligible for a funded extension. This data collection covers both those students in their final year of funding (funding end date between 1 March 2020 and 31 March 2021) as well as those whose funding end date falls after 1 April 2021.

If you fit into one of those groups, and you have not already submitted your thesis, then you will be considered for a funded extension.

Group 1:

Those in their final year of funding (i.e. your funding end date is between 1st March 2020 and 31st March 2021)

You are eligible to be considered for a funded extension of up to 6 months and your training grant holder (i.e. CDTs¹, DTPs, the University or individual academics) has been asked to provide an estimate of what you need, and why, by **9 June**.

UKRI have said that they are just looking for an estimate of numbers who will need an extension by 9 June. Individual justifications for UKRI students with a funding end date between 1 March 2020 and 31 March 2021 will need to be submitted by **early autumn** (date to be confirmed).

Group 2:

Those whose funding end date is from 1 April 2021

Your case for an extension will be considered on a case by case basis and your training grant holder (i.e. CDTs, DTPs, the University or individual academics) has been asked to provide an estimate of what you need, and why, by **30 June 2020**.

UKRI have said that they are just looking for an estimate of numbers who will need an extension by 30 June. Individual justifications for UKRI students with a funding end date from 1 April 2021 will need to be submitted by a date as yet unspecified.

What is the application process for those in a CDT or DTP?

If you are part of a DTP or CDT (see Appendix A), you will probably have already been contacted by them about the process for determining what you need, and why, and they will report back directly to UKRI. You should talk to your centre manager or academic lead if you are unclear as to what you need to do. If you do not know who to approach, please contact the Doctoral College.

¹ See Appendix A

What is the application process for those not part of a CDT or DTP?

If you are not part of a CDT or DTP, the Doctoral College will take responsibility for reporting what you need, and why, to UKRI, and to that end it has developed a form for you to complete.

Please click on the link below and complete the first part of the form². You will need to do this as soon as possible but **no later than 4 June 2020 if you are in Group 1. If you are in Group 2, the deadline will be 25 June 2020.** If you are unable to submit by those dates, please let us know as soon as possible so we can ensure we still consider you for an extension. Please discuss the case you are presenting with your supervisor prior to submission.

<https://apps.powerapps.com/play/bb980cb1-cd50-4901-ae48-f8af8acf09ee?tenantId=377e3d22-4ea1-422d-b0ad-8fcc89406b9e&hidenavbar=true>

Once you have finished and you press 'Submit to Supervisor', an email will be sent to your identified lead supervisor asking them to add their comments. When they press 'Submit' the form will be complete and will be sent to the doctoralcollege@bath.ac.uk mailbox. If you are concerned that your lead supervisor will not be able to respond quickly, please get in touch with the Doctoral College as soon as possible.

How do I make a case?

Any request for an extension to PhD funding should be related to challenges faced because of the Covid-19 pandemic from March 2020 onwards. You should talk to your CDT/DTP lead or the Doctoral College (doctoralcollege@bath.ac.uk) about what you need to include.

There may be cases where you feel that you will need longer than 6 months. If so, you should discuss this with your supervisor and, where appropriate, CDT/ DTP leads or the Doctoral College (doctoralcollege@bath.ac.uk) who can discuss this with UKRI.

What if I am wholly or part-funded by a co-sponsor?

If you are in a CDT or DTP, please talk to your CDT/DTP lead about your extension request.

In non-CDT cases UKRI will consider supporting your extension on a pro-rata basis depending on their share of the studentship costs. If you are partly or wholly funded from another source but are a UKRI registered student, then your funding partner should be approached by your supervisor to let them know that a funded extension is being considered through the UKRI process and to see if they are able to support it.

Where can I get further information?

You should talk to your CDT/DTP leads or contact the Doctoral College at doctoralcollege@bath.ac.uk.

² ² For Mac OS X users, we recommend using the Chrome browser as there is an authentication issue with the Safari browser.

Appendix A (DTPs and CDTs)

Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs)

BBSRC South West Biosciences Doctoral Training Partnership (SWBio DTP) in food security and bioscience

ESRC South West Doctoral Training Partnership (SWDTP) in economic and social science

MRC GW4 BioMed Doctoral Training Partnership

NERC GW4+ Doctoral Training Partnership in environmental sciences

Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs)

EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Advanced Automotive Propulsion Systems (AAPS)

EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Aerosol Science

EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Diamond Science & Technology

EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Statistical Applied Mathematics (SAMBa)

EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Sustainable & Circular Technologies (CSCT)

EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Trust, identity, privacy and security in large-scale infrastructures (TIPS-at-scale)

NERC Centre for Doctoral Training in Freshwater Biosciences and Sustainability (FRESH)

NERC/ESPRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Next Generation Unmanned Systems Science (NEXUSS)

UKRI Centre for Doctoral Training in Accountable, Responsible and Transparent AI (ART-AI)

EPSRC Centre for Digital Entertainment (CDE)

EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Catalysis

EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Condensed Matter Physics (CMP)

EPSRC Centre for Innovation Manufacturing in Continuous Manufacturing and Crystallisation (CMAC)

EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Decarbonisation of the Built Environment (dCarb)

EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in New and Sustainable Photovoltaics

EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Water Informatics: Science and Engineering (WISE)