

Doctoral College Coronavirus update
**A message to doctoral students
about research on campus**

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](#).

To all doctoral students

As you know the Government has announced a new period of [national lockdown](#). Further to the recent correspondence from the Vice Chancellor, this email is to provide further information relevant for our doctoral students.

The University continues to operate as per the Government's guidance which states that *"you can leave home for work purposes where it is unreasonable for you to do your job from home"*. As such, research activities (including by PGR students) that cannot reasonably be undertaken at home **can continue to take place on campus**. Continuing to maintain our research activities will help those who have a fixed period of time to achieve their objectives to not be disproportionately disadvantaged by the University's response to the lockdown. It is also essential to us delivering our commitments to students and early career researchers, as required by both government and funders, and by funders of our research.

Laboratory work that was re-started last summer was initiated under guidelines that remain consistent with current workplace guidance. We need to be sure that the guidance, as manifest in the risk assessments that were put in place at that time, is rigorously applied. As a part of this, **all risk assessments relating to laboratory work on campus must be revisited at this point with your HoD or supervisor, and updated where appropriate**. In particular we need to be sure that risk assessments conform with the strict 2m rule for social distancing, rather than the 1m+ rule introduced at the end of June.

It should also be noted that the University policy is for face coverings to be worn in all shared indoor spaces, as well as in public spaces and when moving around buildings. Revision of risk assessments will also need to be alert to any other ways in which the [Government guidelines](#) are not being strictly applied. If there is a need for advice, discuss with your supervisor in the first instance.

Research involving human participants, which involves gathering with others, on or off campus, will have to be **paused/delayed** (with very few exceptions) and research participation rescheduled until after the restrictions are lifted. The HRA has published [guidance](#) on how to make changes to existing studies and details of how [amendments](#) are being processed can be found on our webpage. If you are simply pausing your study, and doing so does not have a negative impact on your subjects or data, please notify the Sponsor by email nhs-sponsorship@bath.ac.uk.

Carrying out research during these unprecedented times – with the pandemic - can have an impact on data integrity. Remember that if your research plans and activities have changed, then you may need to [review your ethics considerations](#).

I would like to remind everyone of the need to strictly follow the rules at all times. Your actions will have an impact on our wider university community including other doctoral students, researchers, and technical and support staff.

We will continue to update our [guidance for our research community](#) during the COVID-19 outbreak, as well as [information for students](#).

If you have any issues and require local advice please contact your HoD/supervisor in the first instance. Any further queries can be emailed to CV19enquiries@bath.ac.uk so that your query can be redirected to the most relevant individual. Any queries relating to sponsorship please email nhs-sponsorship@bath.ac.uk. For any issues relating to ethics or research integrity please contact research-ethics@bath.ac.uk.

The University's main [Covid-19 webpage](#) also contains valuable information for students, which includes advice on mental health and wellbeing. If you need emotional support and counselling at this time please contact the [Wellbeing Service](#) or the [SU Advice & Support Centre](#).

Best wishes, and good health.

Jonathan

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