

PGR Covid-19 Support Scheme

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. I receive a VC Scholarship/Faculty Scholarship. How will the support work for me?

A. If you receive stipend payments, they will continue when your current funding reaches its normal end date (usually at the end of year 3). Full-time PGRs will continue to receive payments for an additional 3 months and the Thesis Pending fee you pay when you move into Year 4 will be reduced by the equivalent of 3 months.

Q. I'm in year 1 of my PhD supported by a University/Faculty Scholarship. When will I receive additional support?

A. If you are in receipt of a scholarship the support would be applied to you at the end of your current funding period which is typically at the end of Year 3, when we would expect you to move to Thesis Pending.

Q. What does 'within time' mean and does it apply to me?

A. When we talk about 'within time' we are referring to a PGR being on schedule to complete their PhD or MPhil within the normal registration periods. The support being offered applies to PGRs who are within time as of 16th March 2020.

Q. My stipend finished in April/May/June 2020. Will I be eligible?

Yes, if you were registered and within time of 16 March 2020 you are eligible. We are working with Finance to ensure that your stipends are reactivated as soon as possible.

Q. I'm paying my own fees. What support will I get?

A. If you meet the criteria for support you will receive a 3 months contribution to your fees when you next complete re-enrolment.

Q. I'm in year 1 of my self-funded PhD. When will I receive additional support?

A. If you are a self-funded PGR then you can expect to receive the financial support when you next re-enrol on the anniversary of your start date.

Q. I have paid my entire 3 year fee in advance. Am I eligible?

Yes, we will reimburse 3 months of your fees paid.

Q. I'm an International student funded by my Embassy. What support is available to me?

A. In the first instance we would expect you to approach your Embassy to request additional support. The Doctoral Academy can assist you with completing any applications required. We would also look sympathetically on any requests for an extension to your registration period to support you completing your award.

Q. My PhD hasn't been affected by the pandemic and I will finish in time. What should I do?

A. There is nothing you need to do, but focus on completing your award on time if you can.

Q. I'm in Thesis Pending/Overtime. Will I receive support?

A. The Doctoral Academy will support you in an extension to your registration period to allow you enough time to complete your award should you need it. You can apply via the Extension to Thesis Pending application form available on our webpages.

Q. I'm eligible for the automatic 3 month support, but I'm not sure when I officially go into Thesis Pending?

A. Typically a full time PGR on a PhD programme will move into 'Thesis Pending' when they move from year 3 to year 4, providing the active research is completed.

Q. What is the Thesis Pending fee?

A. A fee of £500 is applied when you have completed your research (typically at the start of year 4 if you are full-time and year 7 if you are part-time).

Q. I think I meet the criteria for automatic support, but I would like to know for sure?

A. The Doctoral Academy holds a list of PGRs who meet the University criteria for support and you can contact us directly if you would like confirmation of support. You should email: DoctoralAcademy@ljmu.ac.uk

Q. I meet the criteria for support and completed re-enrolment after the 16th March 2020, but have not had an extension to my stipend or reduction in my Thesis Pending fee. What should I do?

A. The University will reimburse 3 months of the fees paid for your last year of enrolment.

Q. I am eligible to receive the automatic 3 months of support from the University, but the impact I have experienced is severe and will take longer to catch up.

A. You should discuss your concerns with your supervisors in the first instance to see if it will be necessary to make adjustments to your project. You are encouraged to evidence the disruptions on your eDoc supervisory meetings record.

If you and your supervisors feel that you need further support, then you can apply for additional support, up to a maximum of 3 months. The Doctoral Academy will open up applications at the end of July. Each application will be considered on its merits.

Q. I don't meet any of the criteria for support, but my project has been impacted. What is available for me?

A. Whilst financial support is not available, your supervisors will continue to offer you their full support and help you revise your Project Timeline and the Doctoral Academy would look sympathetically on any applications to extend your registration period further.

If you are experiencing financial hardship then do talk to the Money Advice team at moneyadvice@ljmu.ac.uk you may also want to look at the LJMU Student Support Fund, which is a hardship fund for students of the University. The application form and notes can be found in the MY LJMU and MY SERVICES area of the [students website](#).

Q. My ability to pay fees has been affected, even with the 3 month reduction. What should I do?

A. You should contact Studentfinance@ljmu.ac.uk to discuss your situation as soon as possible.

Q. I'm externally funded. What support will I get?

Your sponsor may ask you to apply for additional support. If so, your supervisors and the Doctoral Academy can help with your case and provide supporting statements,

Q. Will my end date also be automatically extended by 3 months?

A. No, for PGRs who meet the criteria for the support package provides 3 months of financial support only. If you require additional time to complete your studies, you should complete an application to Extend your Thesis Pending via the forms available on our webpages. All applications will be viewed sympathetically.