

Dear Postgraduate Researchers

Further to our communications last week in relation to coronavirus (COVID-19), we have updated the PGR Frequently Asked Questions area: <https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/about-us/information-on-coronavirus>

We have received a number of queries relating to leaves of absence and/or extension requests and we will be exploring every option to alleviate and mitigate the impact of the pandemic on your research in coming weeks. We will issue further guidance as soon as possible.

In the meantime, if you are unable to continue working (for example, owing to lack of access to resources, a period of illness, or caring responsibilities), you should discuss the matter with your supervisor immediately. Use the Supervisory Meeting facility on eDoc to keep a log of any impact upon your research, and the steps you are taking to continue with your projects. This will ensure that we have a record of your particular circumstances for consideration.

We know that many of you may be feeling isolated from your peers right now, and exploring ways to connect. We will be putting some of the Researcher Development Programme online, and writing groups continue to operate virtually. We're also pleased to tell you can now access Microsoft Teams for chat, video conferencing, and file sharing. It can be used like Zoom, but has the advantage of integrating with other Office 365 apps, and doesn't have the same 40 minute time limit on group conferences. Once installed, you can create meetings directly from your outlook calendar, following the directions here: <https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/staff/help/help-with-working-from-home/getting-started-with-teams>.

We hope this gives you an effective means of communicating with one another and with your supervisory teams in the coming weeks.

Best wishes

Prof Keith George (PVC Research & Enterprise) and Prof Julie Sheldon (Dean of the Doctoral Academy)