

Dear Postgraduate Researchers

The University is committed to supporting our postgraduate research community and has been working with PGR Representatives and JMSU to assess the impact of Covid-19 on research degrees. We are pleased to announce that we will be investing over £1m extra in order to further support postgraduate researchers.

We have almost 900 registered PGRs, and your research is funded in a number of ways. This email sets out how we will support your research in the light of the pandemic.

### **University Funded PGRs (e.g. VC Scholarships, Anniversary Scholarships, Match-funded Scholarships and Faculty-Funded Scholarships)**

If you receive a University funded stipend (and you are registered as within time on March 16th 2020) you will be eligible for an automatic (no request) stipend extension of 3 months.

The additional stipend will apply once you have completed your current LJMU funded stipend period (i.e. at the end of year 3 for full-time and year 6 for part-time). In addition, you will automatically receive a 3 month reduction in Thesis Pending fees to cover this time period. If you are currently within time but just receive LJMU support for your fees (i.e. you do not hold a stipend), then you will also be automatically provided a 3 month reduction in your Thesis Pending fees at the end of your registration period.

This funding support is independent of your year of study, if you are within time, and you will not need to apply.

### **Self-Funded PGRs**

Those of you who are self-funded, and who are within-time, will also receive an automatic 3 month contribution to your fees at the next point of re-enrolment. This funding support is independent of your year of study if you are within time, and you will not need to apply.

### **Externally-Funded PGRs**

PGRs who are funded externally will be supported by the Doctoral Academy to seek funding support from external bodies (e.g. UKRI requires bespoke applications from award holders).

### **PGRs in Writing Up or beyond their maximum registration period**

Applications for extensions from those of you in Thesis Pending ("writing-up") or who have exceeded your registration period will be sympathetically considered.

### **PGRs requiring further support**

We are mindful that some of you may have experienced significant disruption and have broader concerns for the completion of your specific programme of study. In these cases the Doctoral Academy will set up a system of application for additional support (of up to 3 months). Details of the application process will be made available in due course.

We appreciate that some of you might not recognise your own situation in this support package, and you can email your questions to Julie Sheldon in the Doctoral Academy. We will produce a FAQs

early next week and we will do our best to answer all of your queries, whilst adding them to the FAQs page.

Best wishes

Keith George and Julie Sheldon