FAQs for postgraduate students – see https://www.cam.ac.uk/coronavirus/students for the latest advice from the Student Registry

MPhil students – 30 March 2020

If you are an MPhil student and are able to complete your research and submit your thesis you will be granted an exemption of the requirement to keep Easter term resident in Cambridge. We ask that you apply to work away from Cambridge.

Research students – 30 March 2020

General advice from the Student Registry

Can I work on my research from home?

Yes. If you are able to undertake any work on your research from home, we ask that you apply to work away from Cambridge. We are asking you to do this so we are aware of your location as you will continue to be a registered student. You do not need to apply before you leave Cambridge. We appreciate that you might not be able to work at the same rate at home, or carry out required activities, and that you may need more time to work on your thesis. Because of this, if you find that you need additional time, you can apply to extend your submission date. We recommend that you do this around 6 months before your submission deadline when you will have a clear idea of the amount of additional time needed.

If you are unable to undertake any work on your research from home, you should consider applying for non-medical intermission. This will ensure that you do not lose the time that you cannot spend on your project at present.

I have already left Cambridge – what should I do?

If you are able to undertake any work on your research from home, we ask that you apply to work away from Cambridge. We are asking you to do this so we are aware of your location as you will continue to be a registered student. We appreciate that you might not be able to work at the same rate at home, or carry out required activities, and that you may need more time to work on your thesis. If you find that you need additional time, you can apply to extend your submission date. We advise that you do this around 6 months before your submission deadline when you will have a clear idea of the amount of additional time needed.

If you are unable to undertake any work on your research from home, you should consider applying for non-medical intermission. This will ensure that you do not lose the time that you cannot spend on your project at present.

If you are unsure about how long to apply for we suggest that applications are made until the end of June 2020 in the first instance – this can be extended if necessary.

If you are on fieldwork then you do not need to take any action unless your circumstances change.

You do not need to apply before you leave Cambridge.
If you are unable to undertake any work on your research from home, you should consider applying for non-medical intermission. This will ensure that you do not lose the time that you cannot spend on your project at present.

I am on fieldwork - what should I do?

You should continue to follow FCO advice and make/change your arrangements accordingly. If you need to extend your period of fieldwork or if you are unable to continue with your fieldwork you should inform us by emailing recordsandexams@admin.cam.ac.uk. You should also contact the Insurance Office to ensure that your travel insurance remains valid.

If you are coming to the end of your fieldwork we advise that you consider returning home rather than to Cambridge. In this instance please contact us at recordsandexams@admin.cam.ac.uk. If travel restrictions prevent you leaving your fieldwork location you should let us know by emailing recordsandexams@admin.cam.ac.uk. You should also contact the Insurance Office to ensure that your travel insurance remains valid.

Are there any implications on my Tier 4 visa?

The Home Office recognises the exceptional circumstances of the current situation and the University will continue to sponsor a student’s Tier 4 visa during a disruption to studies as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. Tier 4 sponsorship continues during an approved period of ‘Work Away’, in accordance with usual procedures. As the current circumstances are exceptional, Tier 4 sponsorship can continue during a period of intermission of up to 4 months. This timeframe will be kept under review and extended if students are unable to attend for a longer period owing to this situation. Where a disruption to studies means a research student’s submission deadline is extended past their current Tier 4 visa expiry, a visa extension may be required in future and the International Student Office can provide further guidance at the relevant time.

Will I still receive my maintenance stipend?

This will depend on your circumstances and your funding body. You should contact your funding body directly.

CL: Yes, you should continue to receive maintenance allowances if you are on a studentship or scholarship managed by the Department and if the grant has not ended. If you are funded by the Trusts or College, please contact them directly.

I am experiencing financial difficulties, what should I do?

If you are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of a change in your circumstances due to the corona virus, you should contact your College Tutor.

Can I submit my softbound thesis?

CL: Yes, you can submit your softbound thesis via the department’s filer (see https://www.cst.cam.ac.uk/local/phd/submission).

I have submitted my softbound thesis, will my viva voce examination take place?

Your viva voce examination may be held via video conference. Please contact your Degree Committee Secretary directly for further details and see https://www.cst.cam.ac.uk/local/phd/submission.
Can I submit my hardbound thesis and my e-thesis?

Please note that until further notice Student Registry will be closed due to the Coronavirus outbreak and will therefore not be in a position to receive hardbound submissions. Alternative arrangements have therefore been made as follows. Most students have their thesis bound by JS Wilson who will accept an electronic copy and will print and bind the thesis and let Student Registry know when this has been done so that we can process the approval for the award of your degree without delay. They will also store the theses until Student Registry reopens. Students who are not able to use JS Wilson to bind their thesis will need to request an extension, including in their request an explanation of why they are not able to use JS Wilson. Extension requests should be emailed to recordsandexams@admin.cam.ac.uk.

You should submit your e-thesis unless informed otherwise by Student Registry.

When will I receive confirmation that I have been approved for the degree?

Degree Committees and the Board of Graduate Studies will meet remotely over the coming months to consider the approval of degrees and other individual student matters.

Who can I contact for more guidance?

Please contact Student Registry at recordsandexams@admin.cam.ac.uk.