



## COVID-19 FAQs

The [Research Office](#) will be communicating regularly to help respond to all colleagues' needs. It is important to remember that everyone is affected, funders too, so there could be an impact on funding applications or reporting deadlines. All colleagues are asked to allow for extra time when dealing with grant applications or awards.

If you require further assistance, contact the [Research Services team](#).

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### New grant applications

#### 1) Can I still submit new grant applications?

Yes, many funders are continuing to run their schemes as normal, although some deadlines may have been changed, so always check the call details carefully on the funders' own websites. Funders who have suspended their application rounds will have a statement on their website. All online platforms are working as normal.

The Research Services team are working remotely. We are asking everyone to continue to follow the **University's protocols when applying for research grants (see Appendix)** but please give the team as much notice as possible of your intention to submit.

Please note that during the Covid-19 pandemic, all **risk assessments (which inc. financial assessment of all grant proposals)** are reviewed significantly earlier in the process, as agreed by the Directorate.

#### 2) Are there any changes to how funding applications are approved while staff are working remotely?

No, we can still access the RMS (UOL Research Management System), Je-S and other funder submission systems from home and will continue to provide institutional approval for all grant applications as normal (**after the Dean or his nominee has approved the proposal**).

Colleagues are reminded, that all **proposals must be completed on funder's portals days before the actual deadline (as noted in the protocols)** to ensure the Research Office has enough time to undertake final review and provide institutional approval.

3) What are the current funder policies on submission processes and deadlines?

Some funders have extended submission deadlines for their schemes. The guidance from funders is evolving, please check their pages for the very latest information – **see appendix below**.

4) If the application process requires an interview, are funder panels being held as normal?

Funders are making practical decisions based on the latest government advice and will update their websites accordingly. Anyone expecting an interview will be notified of the relevant arrangements or expected delays by the funder directly.

5) Are funders able to make funding decisions or will these be delayed?

Most funders are now operating remotely, which is affecting their decision-making process. Since decision panels are unable to meet face-to-face, funding decisions may be delayed or postponed for the time being. Always check individual funder websites for the latest information.

## **New Awards**

1) Can recently awarded grants start as normal

Given the circumstances, Principal Investigators (PIs) should carefully consider whether starting the project now is absolutely necessary or feasible. PIs should contact the Research Services team ([research@sas.ac.uk](mailto:research@sas.ac.uk)) to discuss whether the project should be delayed, taking into account the funder's terms and conditions. The main funders have indicated that they will take a pragmatic approach to any delays caused to research projects.

The Research Services team are still responsible for formally accepting awards and will work with funders to ensure this can be done.

2) Can recently awarded grants start if work can be carried out remotely?

Yes. If a project can be carried out remotely and no researchers need to be recruited, then work can proceed and the grant set-up by the Research Services Team.

However, if your project has overseas partners, fieldwork involving human contact or requires international travel, then Principal Investigators should give serious consideration to whether starting the grant now is necessary or feasible. Establishing contracts with research partners, subcontractors or suppliers may be difficult if their operations are affected by COVID-19 while the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office](#) prohibits all non-essential travel.

PIs should discuss project set-up requirements with their Departmental manager and Research Services in the first instance.

### 3) How long can a UKRI grant start date be delayed?

Many funders are recommending that researchers delay start dates where possible. UKRI has revised its policy on start date delays, permitting responsive mode and fellowship grants to be delayed for up to six months and an additional clause will be included in grant offer letters for new awardees. Where an offer letter has already been issued under the former policy (up to three months delay) and the grant has not begun, requests to delay the start date for six months can be submitted via Je-S.

Please note, the six-month start date delay does **not** apply to managed mode calls or grants delivering time-critical investments or training, and the previous start date policy continues to apply. If more time is needed for these grants, an extension request can be submitted via Je-S, which will be considered by UKRI on a case-by-case basis. **Any request for extension must be first approved by the School Senior Management Team before the funder is contacted.**

## **Contracts**

### 1) Will the signing-off of contracts under negotiation for upcoming projects be affected by the COVID-19 situation?

If you have a contract currently under negotiation, you should continue to liaise directly with the Research Services team as normal. They will support you on any issues with the contract and approaches to funders or partners. However, please think carefully about the delivery of the project, timelines and any additional costs that may be incurred (e.g. increases in salary costs) as a result of any delayed start to work. Changes may be sought in the contract at this point to help account for or mitigate against the impact of the current COVID-19 outbreak.

### 2) If work is delayed by COVID-19, is the University of London still bound by contractual terms with funders and partners?

In these circumstances, yes, we will still be bound by the terms of the contract. However, each contract should contain mitigation wording to account for unforeseen delays or issues arising that have an impact on a project. This will mainly fall under Force Majeure, but there may be additional terms within a contract that can be invoked.

If you are unclear on any of the provisions within your contract, please contact the Research Services team for further guidance. We would encourage you to discuss the impact on your project with your funder or collaborators, and further guidance on how to go about this may be sought from the RS.

## **Existing grants**

### 1) Are existing grants running as normal?

If your project is able to operate remotely then you can continue with your work.

We expect funders to take a pragmatic approach to any disruption to research projects and depending on the nature of the study, individual circumstances and the period of disruption and we envisage that:

- Grants may be extended to allow existing budgets to be utilised (a no-cost extension)

- Extra funding could be requested if there is reasonable justification, which funders will consider on a case-by-case basis. Note that some funders have a maximum grant amount which cannot be increased.

Principal Investigators should contact the Research Services to discuss whether proceeding with the research is safe or appropriate and to establish any cost implications. **Any request for extension must be approved by the School Senior Management Team before contacting the funder.** (please see below for further details)

## 2) Can the Start Date of new projects be delayed?

Given the circumstances, Principal Investigators should carefully consider whether starting the project now is absolutely necessary or feasible unless the study is COVID-19 related.

Contact the research services team to discuss the consequences of delaying the start date of a new project so this can be considered in line with funder's terms and conditions and expectations.

## 3) Are new projects being set-up by Finance?

Yes, the finance department are working remotely and continuing to function as normal. New projects will be set-up as normal.

## 4) What are my options if a project cannot continue remotely?

We expect our funders to take a pragmatic approach to any disruption to research projects. Depending on the funders' terms and conditions, specific circumstances and period of disruption, there are several possible options:

- **No-cost extension** - grants can be extended to allow existing budgets to be utilised.
- **Costed extension** - additional funding can be requested if there is reasonable justification, but funders will consider this on a case-by-case basis.
- **Existing timeline and budget** - some funders have a fixed project timeline and/or maximum grant amount which cannot be increased. To work within the original parameters, PIs may be required to change the project scope or deliverables and utilise underspends or budget virements.
- **Temporary grant suspension** – some grants may need to be suspended temporarily (held in abeyance).

We understand that some posts are entirely externally-funded and the C-19 virus may have an impact on the work and whether it can be delivered by the time the contract ends. In such circumstances, it may be possible to extend some posts where there is remaining budget within the award and (where necessary) the funder agrees to the extension of the project duration.

Where the existing budget may be insufficient to fund extension of posts, dialogues with major research funders (including UKRI) about the provision of supplementary funding to enable projects impacted by COVID-19 disruption to provide for extension of some posts are ongoing. The timeframe for decisions on these matters by funders is not known at the time of writing but as decisions are made, individuals and research groups will be informed.

If a funder confirms a grant extension, it is essential that grant holders and their institutes retain appropriate evidence of any additional costs incurred, e.g. irrecoverable fees arising from the cancellation of meetings/events, travel, etc.

Principal Investigators should contact the Research Services team to discuss their individual circumstances and any cost implications so the best course of action can be agreed in line with funders' terms and conditions. **Any request for extension must be approved by the School Senior Management Team before contacting the funder.** Funder confirmation of extensions, supplementary funding or temporary suspensions will be shared with the institute managers for their records. It should be noted that the Research Services team, with the support of the PI, **is responsible for seeking extension approval from funders.**

**Please see Appendix B for details per funder.**

4) Can fixed-term research staff be furloughed?

Principal Investigators (PIs) should contact their Institute Manager and Director to discuss whether proceeding with the research is safe or appropriate and to establish any cost implications of pausing or suspending their projects.

The Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is a temporary scheme to help staff whose roles and normal operations have been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Fixed-term research staff whose funding source is not public funding in any substantive way may be eligible for the scheme. Staff placed on furlough will **not** be able to undertake any work.

To learn more about the Job Retention Scheme, please contact HR, Maudlyn Aaron (SAS business partner) at Maudlyn.Aaron@london.ac.uk

## **Grants ending**

1) What happens to awards ending before June/July 2020?

If your project is scheduled to end within the next few months, the Principal Investigator (PI) should consider whether all deliverables can be met or not. If work can continue, then any scientific reporting obligations to the funder should be completed as normal. The award will then be closed as usual.

If your project has been disrupted by COVID-19 and you are unable to finish on time, then a No Cost Extension may be possible if this is in line with the funders' terms and conditions. PIs should contact the research services to discuss the best course of action as soon as possible.

2) Are grant-holders still required to complete end of project reporting?

Unless funders have contacted you explicitly then all of end-of-project scientific reporting requirements remain in place and access to systems such as [Researchfish](#) (UKRI) are unaffected by remote working and should be used as normal.

If your project has experienced delays as a result of COVID-19 and deliverables have not been met, please liaise with the Research Services to consider possible options (see Existing Grants section above)

## **Ethical approvals**

1) Will the ethic approval process change?

No – all research undertaken under the UOL aegis, whether by students, staff or fellows, must receive institutional ethical approval. As such, the process remains unchanged. For information, please check here: <https://www.sas.ac.uk/research/research-policies-and-protocols/research-ethics>

- 2) I have already received ethical approval, but need to change the methodology due to C-19. What do I need to do?

Please review the **essential guidance** here in relation to all ethical approval processes during the C-19 pandemic. This can be found [here](#).

- 3) Will COVID-19 studies be fast tracked for review?

Yes – please see [guidance](#).

## Scientific delivery

- 1) Should research involving human participants stop?

Staff, students and/or fellows undertaking any research that involves face-to-face contact with other people should consider whether activity such as interviews or fieldwork can be delayed or delivered differently (i.e. through remote contact). All UOL research should abide by the [guidance](#) provided by the University of London Research Ethics Committee.

- 2) What happens to overseas fieldwork?

Due to current [Foreign and Commonwealth Office](#) travel restrictions all overseas fieldwork should be paused and worldwide non-essential travel postponed. Fieldwork involving face-to-face contact should not go ahead unless this can be managed remotely.

For further advice about overseas travel and fieldwork (including advice about how the University's insurance will operate), please see the University Health and Safety section on the [intranet](#):

- 3) Are UOL buildings and labs and libraries still accessible?

Not at the moment. Please ensure that you review UOL information on the website and intranet.

- 4) Should events and other travel be cancelled?

All events should be cancelled or rearranged unless they can be offered online and all non-essential travel – including research – cannot go ahead.

The UOL will not allow work or study related trips, which are not covered by the UOL insurance policy. The [Insurance Page](#) is being updated regularly.

- 5) Can research data be stored safely while working remotely?

The UOL research data storage facilities are unaffected by remote working and staff can continue to access repositories.

*Much of this text was based on the following material that is copyright of Imperial College London:*  
<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/research-office/funder-information/covid-19--impact-on-research-funding/covid-19-faqs/>

June 2020 – University of London Research Office ([reserach@sas.ac.uk](mailto:reserach@sas.ac.uk))

## Appendix A – UOL [Protocols](#)

Please use the above link to access the current pre- and post-award protocols.

### **Appendix B Funders' guidance on existing grants**

Funders will update their guidance as and when the situation changes, so always refer to their webpages for the latest information.

#### 1. BRITISH ACADEMY: [Full statement from the British Academy](#)

The [British Academy Flexi-Grant](#) system is accessible from anywhere with an internet connection. The deadlines for currently open calls can be found on the [BA website](#), and applicants should submit their applications through Flexi-Grant in the normal way.

The British Academy encourages award holders to investigate, where necessary, all possible alternative ways of continuing to progress their research. However, they understand that the outbreak may impact on the activities associated with some awards and will treat all requests for no-cost extensions to awards and requests for virement of funding between cost headings sympathetically. These should be requested in the usual way, by contacting the British Academy by email and by completing a change request form in the British Academy/Flexi-Grant system. If you have been unable to recover costs from a travel operator or insurance, costs can be charged to grants. Grants often end with an underspend and they expect award holders to be able to absorb these costs through this and other re-arrangements in their budgets.

Applicants who need assistance should contact [grants@thebritishacademy.ac.uk](mailto:grants@thebritishacademy.ac.uk) or [newtonfund@thebritishacademy.ac.uk](mailto:newtonfund@thebritishacademy.ac.uk) or [international@thebritishacademy.ac.uk](mailto:international@thebritishacademy.ac.uk) depending on the scheme.

Award holders can also access the change request forms via the application portal under 'available grants' and should use the same contacts if they need to discuss their cases before submitting the change request.

#### 2. BRITISH COUNCIL: [Full statement from the British Council](#)

#### 3. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

##### 1) Is EU Commission funding being treated differently to UK funding?

In general, the questions and answers outlined on this page are also applicable to EC funded projects. To note:

##### European Research Council

The ERC have [posted a statement on their website](#) (last updated on 16 April) stating that they are doing their utmost to remain fully operational during this period, that grant management activities continue as normal (although technical issues may slow some processes down) and that panel evaluations are currently being organised remotely. The 2020 Advanced Grant call is open with a deadline of 26 August. Under the terms of the (Brexit) Withdrawal Agreement, UK based PIs can apply and, if successful, will be funded by the ERC for the duration of their project, regardless of project start dates.

##### Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Information relating to the impact of the coronavirus on MSCA fellows is maintained on the [Coronavirus: information for the MSCA Community page](#). The Research Executive Agency (REA) will adopt a flexible approach towards projects that fail to meet grant agreement obligations due to the COVID-19 containment measures, and may apply the rules on force majeure, or agree nil-cost extensions for projects. Projects will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and fellows should speak to their REA project officer and to the Research Services if they require support.

The 2020 call for MSCA Individual Fellowship applications is now open. The deadline is 9 September. Under the terms of the (Brexit) Withdrawal Agreement, fellows can apply to be hosted in UK based institutions. If successful, fellowships will be funded by the EC for the duration of their project, regardless of project start dates.

Erasmus+

The [Commission has released a statement](#) explaining that it will apply maximum flexibility in the implementation of the programme, within the limits of the applicable legal framework. To deal with participants being unable to travel, or return home, due to COVID-19 restrictions, Erasmus+ National Agencies are now permitted to invoke force majeure clauses whereby they may accept additional costs up to a maximum grant amount. Planned activities may also be postponed by up to 12 months per project. Following the Commission's statement, the UK National Agency [has published dedicated travel advice](#) for regions affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Furthermore, the UK government has issued its own [advice for UK education providers](#) regarding staff and student overseas travel and project participants are advised to speak to their providers about arrangements. Participants under 18 are advised against all overseas education trips, while those over 18 who are due to travel should consult their education institutions on whether the travel should continue as planned. For any UK participants already overseas, they should continue to monitor the [latest FCO travel advice](#) and comply with any COVID-19 control measures put in place in their current host nation.

- [European Research Area \(ERA\) Corona Platform](#)

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the European Commission has launched the [European Research Area \(ERA\) Corona Platform](#) on its Funding & Tenders Portal to make information related to the COVID-19 outbreak and its impact on Horizon 2020 grants available in a single place.

The page is still under construction, but already includes links to the COVID-19 FAQs, a list of Horizon 2020 deadlines that have been extended and links to other useful resources. In the future, it will also include links to the relevant pages of EU Member States and will be a one-stop-shop for applicants and beneficiaries of Horizon funds looking for information about the COVID-19 outbreak.

- [European Commission Answers to Frequently Asked Questions on Horizon 2020 Projects](#)

The European Commission has published answers to some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the COVID-19 outbreak and its impact on Horizon 2020 projects and calls for proposals:

## **Project implementation/eligibility of costs**

- [Can the clause on “force majeure” in the Horizon 2020 grant agreement be invoked in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak?](#)
- [Related to the Covid-19 outbreak, is it possible in Horizon 2020 grants to postpone the starting date of the action?](#)
- [Related to the Covid-19 outbreak, how will the funding bodies handle possible delays in submitting deliverables and reports in Horizon 2020 grants?](#)
- [Related to the Covid-19 outbreak, what happens in Horizon 2020 grants if beneficiaries cannot submit all/complete elements for their reports related to interim and final payments?](#)
- [Is there any possibility to extend the project duration of Horizon 2020 grants due to the Covid-19 situation?](#)
- [What happens to costs in Horizon 2020 grants when there are difficulties in implementing the action due to the Covid-19 situation?](#)
- [Is there any possibility to rapidly re-direct work in on-going Horizon 2020 projects to help tackling the Covid-19 outbreak?](#)
- [Related to the COVID-19 outbreak, how will ERCEA handle delays in the project implementation, including as regards the impossibility to fulfil the Principle Investigator \(PI\) time-commitment obligations under the Horizon 2020 ERC grants?](#)
- [What about Horizon 2020 grants involving public procurement when there are difficulties in implementing procurement contracts due to the COVID-19 outbreak?](#)
- [What supporting documentation must beneficiaries of Horizon 2020 grants keep to prove the impact of ‘force majeure’ or delays in the submission of deliverables, reports or implementation of the action due to COVID-19 outbreak?](#)
- [Will there be flexibility for beneficiaries in H2020 lump sum pilot grants, if the work packages cannot be completed at the end of the reporting period due to COVID-19 outbreak?](#)
- [How can beneficiaries support the hours worked in the Horizon 2020 action if the employees cannot sign or have their timesheets countersigned due to the COVID-19 pandemic measures?](#)
- [In Horizon 2020 grants, what happens to costs for equipment purchased exclusively for the action implementation when it cannot be used due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the related confinement measures?](#)
- [In Horizon 2020 grants, will there be any flexibility given in relation to beneficiaries' usual travel costs practices due to the COVID-19 pandemic?](#)

## **Project implementation/eligibility of costs - MSCA**

- [In case a H2020 Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Global Fellowships researcher decides to return to Europe during the outbreak, what will happen with the project? If teleworking is allowed, can the MSCA researcher telework either in a third country or in Europe?](#)
- [One of the requirements under MSCA projects is the “mobility rule” \(see Part 3 of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020\). What happens if the mobility rule can no longer be fulfilled as a consequence of the COVID-19 related travel restrictions?](#)
- [Can the beneficiary in Horizon 2020 Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Actions \(MSCA\) pay the MSCA researcher less during the COVID-19 period, such as not to pay a mobility allowance as the researcher cannot travel?](#)
- [What happens to researcher costs in Horizon 2020 Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Actions \(MSCA\) when there are difficulties in implementing the MSCA action due to the COVID-19 situation?](#)
- [Will the Commission/Agency be flexible if beneficiaries need to modify the researcher recruitment and working conditions due to the COVID-19 outbreak \(e.g. suspend MSCA researcher’s contract or include part-time working arrangements\)?](#)
- [Related to the COVID-19 outbreak, how will the Commission/Research Executive Agency \(REA\) handle delays in the project implementation in Horizon 2020 Marie-Sklodowska-Curie \(MSCA\) ongoing grants?](#)

## Experts and proposal evaluations

- [Are evaluations and monitoring reviews still taking place?](#)

## Call deadlines

- [Will the deadlines for Horizon 2020 calls be extended related to the COVID-19 outbreak?](#)

2) If a Grant Agreement has been signed can start dates for EU Commission projects be delayed?

Some elements of the research may be able to start up remotely without requiring a Grant Agreement amendment to change the start date. If your project has started since January 2020 or is due to start in the next 3-4 months, it may be prudent to delay the recruitment of new staff with only a minor impact on cost and the overall project timeline. If project efficiencies cannot be found in order to stay within the original timeline, a No Cost Extension can be requested. Please contact the Research services for any further support.

3) If a Grant Agreement has been signed, can the start date be amended if necessary?

Once a Grant Agreement has been signed, the terms can only be changed using a Grant Agreement amendment. The European Commission, one the partner institutions or we can initiate this change. If you think your Grant Agreement needs to be amended as a result of COVID-19 please contact the research services.

Where collaborative projects are affected by COVID-19 containment measures beneficiaries should discuss issues with their project coordinator who should in turn contact the EC project officer. For ERC projects and for MSCA Individual Fellowships where COVID-19 is having an impact on the implementation of projects, the research services will contact their project officers on behalf of PIs. Projects are advised to keep full and clear records of the impact of COVID-19. These will be required in due course if projects need to rely on the force majeure condition in the grant agreement to explain either additional costs or changes to the implementation plan. It is also worth noting that the staff of the Commission Services and Agencies are working remotely and that, due to this non-standard way of working, their response time may be longer than normal.

Furlough can be considered for staff employed on EU research grants (collaborative projects and ERC grants) where appropriate. EC guidance is that where staff cannot work (and cannot telework) on grants due to national or regional COVID-19 lockdown, time lost can be included in calculations of eligible time claimed on EC grants. Their expectation is that only the difference between salary costs and any furlough claimed would be met from the grant.

Furlough decisions for researchers employed on MSCA Innovative Training Networks (ITN) will involve additional considerations.

## 4. LEVERHULME TRUST

If you are applying for a grant, award or fellowship

All funding schemes and calls remain open for applications. Application deadlines, shortlisting, and decision dates will not change.

If your organisation is closed and unable to approve and submit an application, the Trust can do this on their behalf, with their agreement.

If you hold a Leverhulme grant, award or fellowship

If you have paid costs for an event, fieldwork or travel which has been cancelled, and these costs cannot be reimbursed or claimed for under insurance, you can claim these against your grant.

If you will need to rebook an event, fieldwork or travel at a later date, then these costs can be charged to your grant. In the first instance the Trust would expect these costs to be managed within the existing budget.

They will generally allow requests to extend your grant if you don't need additional costs.

You can also opt to delay the start of a new award or suspend a current award, if this would be a better option to manage your research.

They do however, require you to email and request any of the changes: [grants@leverhulme.ac.uk](mailto:grants@leverhulme.ac.uk)

If there is the potential for research to be lost or severely compromised, then an application for a costed extension may be considered. You should approach the Trust only when you are in a position to be clear about the length of an extension and the cost involved. They will then advise you of the process to follow. Applications will be considered on a case by case basis.

[Full statement from the Leverhulme Trust](#)

## 5. ROYAL SOCIETY

The Royal Society's offices are closed and all staff are working remotely. Grants teams are still contactable via [grants@royalsociety.org](mailto:grants@royalsociety.org) or +44 (0)20 4751 2666.

Applications

All funding programmes and calls currently remain open for applications in line with advertised dates. The Royal Society will endeavour not to make any changes to application deadlines, interview dates or decision dates.

Some grant committee and panel meetings will take place remotely and they will be in contact with any affected applicants.

If an applicant's institution is closed and unable to approve and submit an application, the Royal Society can do this on their behalf, with agreement from the institution.

Awards

To minimise the impact of the global health situation on award holders, the Royal Society will provide as pragmatic support as possible, recognising the impact of the coronavirus on research is significant and evolving.

The Society is working with award holders and their organisations as well as the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to ensure that fair and appropriate support is in place.

They will be aiming to minimise the impact of the coronavirus on funded activities as far as possible.

Details of the support available are provided in a set of FAQs: [FAQs for Royal Society award holders](#)

[Full statement from the Royal Society](#)

## 6. UKRI

Latest open letter to the research and innovation community from Professor Sir Mark Walport, Chief Executive of UK Research and Innovation (24 April 2020).

Information for institutions/grant holders/applicants

UKRI recognises that almost everyone in research and innovation is either facing major interruptions to their work or a major transition to work on the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the fact that the community is showing real resilience in stepping up to find new and innovative ways of working, taking time to think or craft future proposals and collaborations, there will be major impacts on all existing awards from UKRI.

They are listening carefully to the many questions and concerns they are hearing from both individuals and institutions and are working with the many institutions affected to understand the full extent of the issues. Finding immediate solutions for all of these matters is not something they can do acting alone, but they are discussing daily with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and other government departments and will work to offer further guidance as it is agreed.

Their current plan is for UKRI funding programmes to continue, but they will work to identify any impacts on specific calls or research disciplines. Funding opportunities that are open now will continue to be advertised. All their systems are operating as normal.

UKRI recognises that the current situation may present additional challenges to those intending to apply. To help with that, **the deadlines on all open funding opportunities will be extended** to give applicants more time to submit their applications. These extensions will be managed on a case by case basis.

'No-cost' extension requests to grants impacted by coronavirus will be allowed.

Please refer to the call guidance documentation or contact specific councils for more information. Calls already extended will be revised regularly and, if necessary, extended further. In exceptional circumstances, calls may be reopened.

- [List of all open and coming calls with current deadlines and extensions](#)

UKRI has issued an open call for research and innovation ideas to address COVID-19. Researchers holding existing UKRI standard grants can apply to re-purpose this funding to address the objectives of the call.

UKRI acknowledges that commencing grants at this time is challenging and therefore **a flexibility is being added to the current policy for responsive mode grants and fellowships**. The current policy allows a start date to be delayed for up to three months of the announced start date, this is now being extended to six months.

An additional clause will be added to newly offered grant letters for all UKRI responsive mode calls, but will not apply to managed mode calls or grants delivering time critical investments or training, please contact the appropriate funding body for clarification. Where appropriate you will see the following text on the offer letter: Notwithstanding RGC 4 Starting Procedures, the start of this grant may be delayed by up to six months from the start date shown in the offer letter, the duration of the grant remaining unchanged.

Unless delivering time critical investments or a fixed start date is a condition of award, UKRI will also extend the latest start date for responsive mode grants in cases where the offer letter was issued before this policy change; where the offer letter has already been issued or accepted, but the grant has not yet started, you may submit a request via a Je-S enquiry to start your grant up to six months after the date on your offer letter.

For grants funded through strategic and managed mode funding calls the current starting policy will apply. Any extension requests for these calls will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Requests should be submitted via a Je-S enquiry to be reviewed by the appropriate funder.

If you have any other grant specific queries please feed them back to us using the standard grant enquiry communication route via Je-S. For any other questions please contact us using your normal communication channels.

### Training grants/students

UKRI recognise that students may find themselves unable to complete essential tasks and/or experiments in order to be ready to submit their thesis, for example if their lab or library is closed, field work cannot continue, they are part of a particularly vulnerable group, or have additional caring duties.

Students whose funded period has been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic should continue to receive their stipends from their research organisation while the lockdown is in place.

Students should discuss their individual needs with their supervisor or programme director. That may include requesting an extension where it is necessary, modifying their programme or other measures. Research organisations are best placed to look at a student's individual needs.

Professor Rory Duncan, UKRI Director of Talent, wrote [an open letter to students](#) on programmes funded by UKRI on 24 April.

Grant holders should also refer to the [implementation guidance for training grant holders: extensions for doctoral students impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic](#).

See the full statement for further information. [Full statement from UKRI](#)

### UKRI International

UKRI recognises that many ODA projects and programmes involve international collaboration with partners in countries with fragile health systems and ICT infrastructures. So, to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of participants and partners, UKRI urges UK and in-country teams to act in accordance with guidance issued by national and regional governments and adjust to virtual and remote working if possible.

### Travel

Where travel is impacted, if researchers or students cannot travel due to government/official advice, or it poses a risk to the individual (due to an underlying medical condition etc), this can be charged to the grant in line with any other cost. If that cost cannot be absorbed by any overall underspend on the grant then UKRI will cover that small addition.

### UKRI offices

UKRI's office-based staff are working from home. If you need to contact a member of its teams please do so via email and/or mobile phones in the usual way. If you were due to visit one of UKRI's office locations, institutes/research establishments or Catapult for a pre-arranged meeting, please contact the relevant team before setting off.

UKRI has contingency plans in place to prioritise its core operations but there will inevitably be some disruption in the short term.

### [Full statement from UKRI](#)

## 7. WELLCOME

### Approach

The Wellcome Trust wants to support researchers and those employed on their grants through this challenging period.

As an independent charity, they are able to redeploy their resources and make temporary changes to their policies on supplements and extensions to manage the impact of the pandemic.

### Applying for a Wellcome grant

Wellcome aims to continue to deliver its funding schemes during the pandemic, but may have to make changes as the situation develops. They will publish any changes to application, shortlisting, interview and decision dates on the affected schemes' webpages.

If your organisation is closed and unable to approve and submit an application, they can do this on their behalf with the organisation's agreement.

Advisory committee meetings will take place remotely and they may need to change the review process. If this affects your application, they will let you know.

### *Funding for COVID-19 related research*

Wellcome's targeted funding call for COVID-19 related research has closed. For any COVID-19 related research enquiries, email [epidemics@wellcome.ac.uk](mailto:epidemics@wellcome.ac.uk).

## Extending a grant

### *No-cost extensions for grants that are due to end in 2020 or 2021*

Wellcome will extend all grants by up to six months, to allow for any disruption caused by the pandemic.

### *No-cost extensions for grants that are due to end 1 January 2022 onwards*

They expect grantholders to be flexible in how they manage their programmes of work, to minimise the impact of the disruption. They will only consider requests for extensions where there has been significant disruption to your research that you cannot otherwise manage.

## Supplementary grant funding

These are the costs Wellcome will pay if your grant is affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

See support for those directly involved in delivery of the COVID-19 response for information on the costs they will cover if you're called away to work on the pandemic.

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Research Services

University of London