**PGR COVID-19 IMPACT STATEMENT**

***Purpose of the impact statement***

The impact statement is designed to capture contextual information about the **effect of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions on your research project and/or thesis.**The information you provide will enable your examiners to understand, if applicable, how your research project and/or thesis has been altered by the Covid-19 restrictions.

Adapting research projects in the light of unforeseen circumstances is a normal part of research and you will not be penalised for this if you are able to meet the criteria for the relevant award ([section 2 of the Policy on Research Degrees)](https://www.york.ac.uk/research/graduate-school/support/policies-documents/research-degree-policy/2-criteria-for-award/) which are set at a threshold level. Indeed, the criteria for a PhD specifically highlight that successful candidates are expected to demonstrate: *‘the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to* ***adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems****;’* and will have *‘the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in* ***complex and unpredictable situations, in professional or equivalent environments****’.*

The impact statement is not designed to:

* replace a request for a leave of absence (LoA)/extension if you believe that you have grounds for a LoA/extension due to the effect of the Covid-19 restrictions on your research project/thesis;
* capture information about your personal circumstances; if the Covid-19 pandemic is having/has had a significant negative impact on your personal circumstances (e.g. led to physical or mental ill-health or created a challenging domestic situation), then you should request a LoA/extension.

***Completing the impact statement***

* You may submit an impact statement (it is optional) if you are a PGR whose research has been impacted by the Covid-19 restrictions.

* Please complete parts A, B and D, and if applicable part C.
* You should complete the impact statement just before you submit your thesis for examination, to ensure that it provides the most accurate and up to date information.
* Please [upload](https://www.york.ac.uk/research/graduate-school/academic/thesis/submit/#examination) the completed impact statement (saved as a .pdf file) with your thesis.
* RSA will forward the impact statement to your examiners together with your thesis.
* If you decide not to submit an impact statement you cannot use that decision as grounds for an appeal at a later stage.

**Part A: Student details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **First name** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Surname** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Student number** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Department** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Intended award** | Choose an award. |
| **Programme of study e.g. Biology, History** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Date your studies began** | Click to enter a date. |
| **Mode of attendance** | Choose mode. |
| **Current submission date** | Click to enter a date. |

**Part B: Summary of the effect of the Covid-19 restrictions on your research project**

How has your research project/thesis been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions:

Choose an option.

**Part C: Details (if applicable) of how the Covid-19 restrictions have affected your research project**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title/brief description of original research project | Click to enter text. |
| Title/brief description of your revised research project (if applicable) | Click to enter text. |
| How the Covid-19 restrictions have altered your research project/thesis (max 800 words). | |
| Click to enter text – the box will expand as you type. | |

You may comment on (see the [guidance](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AS1sIwvQOy6VhoRswARHNrBHrL8-0kcETRgDd-L5b3w/edit?usp=sharing) for further detail):

* the challenges that the Covid-19 restrictions presented for your research project/thesis
* what steps you took to address those challenges.

As a reminder, you must not use the impact statement to comment on your personal circumstances (e.g. ill health, domestic situation etc.).

It is recommended that you discuss Part C with your supervisor(s).

Please state if you discussed Part C with your supervisor(s): yes  no

**Part D: Signature of student**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Click to enter name in order to sign. | Click to enter a date. |

**Note for examiners**

As an examiner, youare required to read this impact statement and may choose to explore the contents with the PGR during the oral examination. Examiners should note that there is **no** change to the criteria that a PGR needs to meet to obtain a particular award ([section 2 of the Policy on Research Degrees](https://www.york.ac.uk/research/graduate-school/support/policies-documents/research-degree-policy/2-criteria-for-award/)) in order to protect the integrity of our awards.

**END**