

Covid-19 Scholarship Extension Fund

The University launched the Covid-19 Scholarship Extension Fund (CSEF) on 31st July.

Students meeting either of the following criteria will be eligible to apply:

- You are a doctoral student currently in receipt of a maintenance grant towards living costs from Oxford-managed scholarship schemes, including co-funded UKRI studentships and Wellcome Trust studentships (where the funder has not independently awarded a funding extension); or
- You are a doctoral student and a beneficiary of any scholarship scheme where the University (including divisions and departments) or the colleges provide a recurrent stipend to support your living costs, either from their own funds or from donations/grants from donors or external bodies which the University controls and administers.

Full details of the scheme can be found on [the CSEF website](#).

The CSEF is now open for applications from students whose *current* funding end date is between 1st March 2020 and 31st December 2020. Applications must be submitted by 2359 BST on Friday 21st August. For full details on how to apply, please consult the website linked above.

If you have already submitted an application for a funding extension through UKRI schemes you do not need to apply again to CSEF. Your existing application will be automatically be considered by the CSEF scheme. If you are (part-)funded by UKRI and have not yet submitted an application but think that you will need a funding extension, please contact your departmental graduate administrator for advice.

If your current funding end date falls after 31st December 2020, please consult the website for further guidance on how the CSEF will apply to you.

A separate hardship fund has been established to support self-funded and externally funded students. Details of this scheme will be announced in September.

We are aware that there are a number of other matters of concern to students across MPLS at the moment. Brief updates on these are as follows:

- **Residency:** We are working to clarify the situation with regards to residency for PGR students and expect to issue a clarification on this within the next few days.
- **Continuation Charges:** As noted on the CSEF page, if you receive a funding extension, then the full cost of any University Continuation Charges for which you become liable during the period of your extension will be met by this scheme. UKRI will also cover the University Continuation Charge on the same terms. We are working to clarify the situation with College Continuation Charges.
In addition to the above, the University has implemented a grace period at the start of Michaelmas Term 2020, such that any PGR student who submits by 6th November 2020 will not incur liability for a continuation charge for that term. It is also possible to get a further short extension (one or two weeks) beyond this date if you are very close to submission.
- **Accommodation:** As noted in my message in late July, MPLS DGSs wrote a collective letter to the Chair of Conference of Colleges in early July to raise concerns about how this may affect PGR students. We have been assured that colleges are ready to assist students. If you continue to experience difficulties and feel you have run out of options with your college, please send an email to your DGS with brief details of the problem and we will raise the issue with Conference of Colleges.
- MPLS has put in place [additional guidance for students affected by Covid-19 with regards to transfer, confirmation and submission](#).

Best wishes,

Mike

Prof Mike Bonsall

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