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| **Honours/Masters thesis impact assessment form**  Student name: Caspian Nicholls  UID: u1027945  Commencement Date: 28/01/2020  Honours/Masters Supervisor: Dr. AJ Mitchell |
| Please consider the impacts of all disruptions to your research program that have occurred because of events during 2020 (bushfires, hailstorms, Coronavirus pandemic). In writing this impact statement consider the following questions.  Has the research or fieldwork been impacted? Describe what cannot be completed and why.  The initial plan for this project was to perform experiments using the 14UD tandem pelletron accelerator in May 2020 to study properties of the nuclide cadmium-113. However, the restrictions placed on access to experimental facilities by the ANU in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have meant that these experiments have had to be postponed indefinitely and may not even be able to be performed and analysed before the thesis is due.  Describe what components of your program can be completed remotely.  Any experimental data that is generated can be analysed remotely. The thesis itself can also be written remotely.  Describe changes to your program. In completing this question consider the following:  Can the original research project continue with adjustments or is an alternate research project needed?  The focus of the project has been altered to analysing existing experimental data that has not yet been explored. This data is readily available and can start to be analysed as soon as time not required for fulfilling coursework requirements or completing higher priority tasks becomes available.  Can the research and/or fieldwork be rescheduled?  If access to experimental facilities at ANU becomes permissible before the thesis is due with sufficient time remaining to perform the experiments and analyse the resulting data, then this component of the research will be able to be rescheduled. Whether this will be possible or not is currently unclear.  Can longer term impacts be mitigated by an adjustment to the project?  An extension to the project may increase the chance of experimentation being able to be conducted before the thesis deadline. However, the outcomes of this project will still be satisfactory whatever happens between now and the current thesis deadline, given the alternate research focus outlined above.  Has supervision been impacted because of any of the disruptions that have occurred in 2020?  To a certain extent, because although I can no longer just walk to my supervisor’s office to ask them questions or discuss things, they are still readily contactable via email and/or Microsoft Teams.  Are you on scholarship and/or paying tuition fees?  I am a holder of the Dunbar Physics Honours Scholarship and paying tuition fees.  Are there other direct financial impacts?  No.  Has the coursework in your program been affected?  Yes, each of my courses have had to be restructured/modified and it appears that extra work will be required from myself/my fellow students and our lecturers to achieve the same standard of teaching and learning as would be possible under normal circumstances.  Overall is the impact to your research program substantial? In completing this question consider the following:  Will you need an extension to the duration of program, if so is that best managed through an extension to the submission date or through a change in your study plan (reduced study load)?  Whilst the impact to the research program that was initially planned is substantial due to experiments having been postponed, if they are to be performed at all, a modified research program has been devised that will still generate satisfactory outcomes (in terms of the research skills developed and the thesis that will be produced). An extension to the submission date or a reduction in the study load does not seem necessary.  Does an extension or reduced study load directly affect your career plans?  Potentially, as participating in graduate programs that have their intake at the start of the year would become unrealistic, an issue given that these are being considered for work beyond the Honours year.  Does an extension to the duration of your program affect the availability of supervision?  No |

Please attach your research proposal or a brief overview of your original research plan to this document.

Signed

Student

Caspian Nicholls

Supervisor

Dr. AJ Mitchell