UCL Student and Registry Services

researchdegrees@ucl.ac.uk

Covid-19 impact form for doctoral examination

Research students have had to conduct their research under extraordinary circumstances as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. UCL has developed this form for you to submit with your thesis if you wish. The form is optional and your choice to complete it or not will have no bearing on the outcome of your examination. It is intended to set the context of examination and is not a plea for leniency. Your examiners will continue to apply the standard criteria as set out in UCL’s [Academic Manual](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/academic-manual/chapters/chapter-5-research-degrees-framework) and the joint examiners’ form. Please see the publication from the QAA on [Advice on Doctoral Standards for Research Students and Supervisors](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/news-events/support-and-guidance-covid-19) for further support.

You must submit this form as a separate word document or PDF when you submit your thesis via the [UCL Dropbox](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/dropbox/) as detailed in our [guidance](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/exams-and-assessments/research-assessments/format-bind-and-submit-your-thesis-general-guidance#Submit%20your%20thesis) . We will only accept the form if you submit it at the same time that you submit your thesis.

You may wish to consult your supervisory team and/or your Departmental Graduate Tutor (DGT) in preparing this statement. It will be passed to your examiners with your thesis by the Research Degrees team. It will not be stored on your file, published or sent to the library alongside your final thesis. Although it will not be formally sent to your supervisors, it is possible that your supervisor or DGT may request access to the final form.

Please write a brief summary (max 800 words) detailing the impact Covid-19 has had on your research. This should include any reasonable adjustments or adaptations of your original research project made in response to the pandemic.

**What to include:**

You could explain anomalies such as lack of coherence, unfinished work, changes to methods mid-way, or non-ideal/non-traditional data sets. Keep in mind your thesis should also include a future directions section as normal and you may include some of these items there.

Your statement may also include any positive outcomes or additional things learnt as a result of having to adapt during the pandemic.

If you have included Covid-19-related research in your thesis, you should include a brief statement of how it relates to your overall research aims.

**What not to include:**

The statement is intended to set the context for your examiners and nothing in it will have a bearing on the overall outcome of your examination.

The pandemic may have had a personal impact for you. However, for your own protection, you should not include any very personal or confidential details. The statement should concentrate on the impact of the pandemic on your research even if the reasons were personal.

Covid-19 Impact Form

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| **Covid-19 Impact Form**  **Student Details** | |
| Full Name: |  |
| Student Number: |  |

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| **Report** |
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