

## **COVID-19 Emergency Hardship Fund for PGRs**

In response to the pandemic, an Emergency Hardship Fund was created thanks to over a million pounds in generous donations from alumni, staff, students and friends of the University. Manchester Doctoral College have been successful in securing £200,000 from the fund to financially support PGR students due to the pandemic.

£100,000 has been allocated to the COVID-19 Emergency Hardship Fund to help those PGRs who have fallen into financial hardship due to the Pandemic. These funds will be dispersed via application to the Living Cost Support Fund (guidance below).

The remaining £100,000 will be used to reimburse PGRs who have met with unexpected and unavoidable expenses due to COVID-19. For expense claims please see the [PGR COVID-19 Expense Fund](#).

### **Who is eligible to apply for the COVID-19 Hardship Fund?**

All PGRs (including those in their Submission Pending period) who are suffering from real and demonstrable financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic may apply. Those in groups who have suffered disproportionately are particularly encouraged to apply:

- Those from BAME and/or low and middle income backgrounds
- Those from Development Assistance Committee countries
- International students
- Self-funding PGRs
- PGRs not in receipt of any other COVID-19-related funding from UoM
- Funded PGRs whose additional income source(s) have been lost due to COVID-19

### **How much and what I can apply for?**

PGRs can make one successful application to the fund per academic year (if you have an application refused, but your circumstances change, you can submit a further application). Support cannot be provided for tuition fees, but applications will be accepted for other costs including:

- Essential equipment associated with your research
- Extension of visa costs due to COVID-19-related extension to programme
- Access to childcare facilities or other expenses related to caring responsibilities
- Extended accommodation costs and increased household bills due to homeworking
- Additional travel costs due to Government recall
- Research training – where not available and required as part of re-scoping a project
- Books (where not available electronically)
- Reduction of internationally managed stipends due to COVID-19 impact exchange rates
- Quarantine hotel / testing costs due to COVID-19

### **How do I apply?**

Applications can be made via the Living Cost Support Fund (LCSF). The LCSF team will review all applications, evidence and supporting statements to judge whether an award is justified. Applications will be means tested and supporting documentation will be requested by the LCSF team.

You will be asked to submit a personal supporting statement as part of the application. Please use this space to fully highlight how you have been impacted financially by the pandemic and if you fall into any of the priority groups detailed above. If you are applying for support with essential equipment associated with your research then you will be required to submit a supporting statement from your Supervisor/Faculty/School.

Full guidance, an application guide and the online application form are available on the [Living Cost Support Fund website](#).

**How/when will I know if I am successful?**

The team will endeavour to make a decision on your application as quickly as possible. However, since demand for the fund is expected to be high, it may take up to 3 weeks from receipt of supporting documents for a decision to be made. The outcome of your application will be communicated via email.

**Are there any conditions?**

Applicants who are successfully awarded hardship funds are asked to consider recognising the generous donors in their thesis acknowledgments.

If you require any further guidance please contact your [local PGR Support team](#) or the Student Services Centre.