

Changes to the [Interruptions procedure for postgraduate research students](#) Feb 2021

Section 7 was updated to reflect changes to UKRI terms and conditions.

7. Student eligibility criteria for receiving stipend payments during an interruption for maternity or adoption

- a. Full-time and part-time postgraduate research students who receive an annual maintenance stipend funded by the University of Manchester (i.e. from a School, Faculty or central department) and/or from Research Council funding are entitled to up to 26 weeks of paid maternity/adoption leave without the normal value of their maintenance stipend being reduced, followed by 13 weeks at 13 weeks ~~at 41% of the normal value of their stipend~~ ~~at a level commensurate with statutory maternity pay~~ with the remaining 13 weeks unpaid.
-

Section 8 was updated to change the incorrectly titled paternity leave to unpaid parental leave and to reflect UKRI policy in relation to timing of the leave.

8. Interruption for the purpose of ~~paternity~~ unpaid parental leave

- a. ~~The student parent partner who is not in receipt of parental leave of a mother~~ is entitled to apply for an interruption for up to 50 weeks for the period of time following the birth/adoption of their child ~~for parental caring responsibilities as unpaid parental leave~~. This ~~interruption allowance is unpaid and leave must commence be completed~~ within ~~the~~ 12 months ~~following of~~ the birth/adoption of their child. The student must formally apply for the interruption. For further details on how to apply, please see section 4 of this procedure.
 - ~~b. A student may interrupt their degree for the purpose of paternity leave for a maximum period of 50 weeks subject to approval from the relevant School or Faculty.~~
 - ~~e.b.~~ Students must discuss their application to forthcoming interruption for unpaid parental leave and agree interruption period dates ~~paternity leave~~ with their supervisor(s), supervisory team and the appropriate School or Faculty Graduate Office as early as possible, ~~and should confirm the start date of the maternity leave not later than the 15th week before the date on which the baby is due.~~
 - c. Once the interruption period dates have been agreed, students must submit the relevant interruption application form to the appropriate School or Faculty graduate office no later than the end of the 15th week before the expected week of childbirth- or within 7 days of the student being notified by the adoption agency that they have been matched with a child. The form is available from the appropriate School or Faculty Graduate Office.
 - d. The student must also provide forward a copy of the mother's MATB1 ~~form as soon it is provided by her GP~~ (if the student does not have a MATB1 form, a
-

letter from the GP can be provided confirming the date of childbirth). Or provide an adoption certificate (provided by the adoption agency)

- ~~e. The student is responsible for submitting the appropriate Change of Circumstances application form to apply for a period of interruption. The form is available from the appropriate School or Faculty Graduate Office.~~

The appropriate School or Faculty Graduate Office will then confirm in writing the terms of the unpaid parental leave~~paternity leave~~ and the latest date on which the student should return to study.

Section 11 was updated to state that PGRs should check funding implications with their sponsor when applying for a period of interruption for the purpose of internship.

11. Interruption for the purpose of internship

- a. An internship is an opportunity to undertake a period of work/research which is not regarded as part of the 'normal' programme of study, which may or may not be funded, and which may enhance future career prospects. An internship may or may not be related to the programme of study but will require a break from study via an interruption. (Note this is different from a placement which is an integral and predefined part of a programme of study which is an official leave of absence). See the Official Leave of Absence Procedure.
- b. Students' should apply for a period of interruption for the purposes of internship via the normal interruption application form available from the appropriate School or Faculty Graduate Office. The form should be submitted in advance of the period of time to be taken away from their studies, supply evidence of the internship opportunity and provide a statement identifying how the students' research or professional development will be benefitted. The decision is at the discretion of relevant School or Faculty PGR office. The student should check funding implications with their sponsor and any immigration implications impacting their visa with the visa@manchester.ac.uk.