

Postgraduate Researcher (PGR) COVID-19 Expense Support Fund (2024)

In response to the pandemic, a fund was created thanks to over a million pounds in generous donations from alumni, staff, students and friends of the University. Manchester Doctoral College was successful in securing £200,000 from the fund.

Half of this funding has now been allocated to help cover unexpected research programme-related expenses PGRs may have personally incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please note that PGRs who have fallen into long term financial hardship for any reason should refer to the [Living Cost Support Fund](#).

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Am I eligible to apply for the COVID Expense Support Fund?

All PGRs who have *personally* incurred unexpected research programme-related costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic are eligible to apply. You cannot claim for any expenses that were charged to a Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) or were covered by other internal sources. Payments can only be made to registered PGRs (we are unable to pay PGRs who have submitted their thesis so be sure to apply early).

What costs can I claim for?

Support cannot be provided for tuition fees, but applications will be accepted for personally incurred COVID-19-related costs limited to:

- Essential equipment for required home working during the University closure.¹
- Additional Visa costs due to COVID-19-related extension to programme.
- Travel costs due to Government recall / return home in 2020.
- Research training that wasn't available internally but was essential to re-scoping a project.
- COVID testing costs due to travel for University sanctioned research / return to Manchester.

Please note that we can only cover personal costs. We are unable to cover costs associated with PGR dependants / family. We are also unable to cover costs related to any increase in utility bills.

¹ Any purchases related to equipment for home working made after the 1st Sep 2021 must be accompanied by a supporting statement from a supervisor or school/department administrator to confirm that you did/do not have access to a suitable study space on campus at the time of the purchase.

How much can I claim for?

Individual awards will be capped at a maximum of £500. Applications will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis.

Multiple applications are permitted but the total awards over an academic year will be capped at £500.

What evidence is required?

Alongside the details required in the application form you will need to provide evidence/proof of the expenses being claimed for. We will accept receipts / email confirmations / travel tickets and/or credit card and bank statements that detail the expense. And please be as thorough as possible in your supporting statement.

Can I apply retrospectively?

Yes, applications can be made for any eligible COVID-19-related expense that has been personally incurred since March 2020.

How do I make a claim?

PGR claimants will need to fully complete the [claim form](#) and submit it (alongside the required evidence) to mdc@manchester.ac.uk using the subject heading 'PGR COVID Expense Claim.'

When will I know if my application has been successful?

It should never take longer than 10 working days to receive a decision. Applicants will be contacted by email.

Help and contacts

If you have any questions regarding making an application, or about an application already submitted, please contact mdc@manchester.ac.uk and one of the team will be able to advise you.