

Summary of Changes: PGR Interruptions to Programme Procedure (2025)

Category	2021 Procedure	2025 Draft	Change Summary
Document Title	Interruptions Procedure for PGRs	Postgraduate Researcher (PGR) Interruption to Programme Procedure	Title updated for clarity and consistency with other PGR documents.
Scope and Definitions	Applies to PGRs; interruption not allowed during submission pending or resubmission periods.	Applies to full and part-time PGRs; interruption not allowed for absences under 4 weeks except unpaid parental leave.	Clarified scope and added exception for unpaid parental leave.
Maximum Interruption Duration	Normally not to exceed 12 months (excluding maternity/adoption/unpaid parental leave).	Maximum one calendar year, excluding family leave and baby loss; longer interruptions require exceptional approval.	Refined policy language and added baby loss exception.
Mitigating Circumstances	Listed examples including illness, family issues, equipment failure, etc.	Expanded list including gender reassignment, fertility treatment, breakdown of essential equipment, internships.	Broadened definition and examples of mitigating circumstances.
Evidence Requirements	Medical certificates and supervisor statements required.	Expanded guidance on acceptable evidence and confidentiality options.	Improved clarity and flexibility in evidence submission.
Application Process	Student submits form with evidence; panel decision is final.	Similar process; added option for representative submission and supervisor confidentiality.	Enhanced accessibility and privacy in application process.

Return from Interruption	Supervisor interview and support plan; panel review if needed.	Phased return, support plans, and formal return process detailed.	More structured and supportive return process introduced.
Access During Interruption	Not explicitly stated.	PGRs retain access to email, library, counselling, and DASS.	New section added to clarify access rights during interruption.
Visa and Funding Implications	Brief mention of funder terms and visa restrictions.	Detailed guidance on visa, ATAS, funding, and stipend implications.	Expanded section to support international and funded students.