

COVID19 Update: Graduate Research Continuity

April 14, 2020

Message sent on behalf of Professor Dionne Gesink, Associate Dean Academic Affairs

Dear Students and Faculty,

Thank you, faculty and graduate students, for connecting and communicating over the past few weeks to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on graduate student progress, dissertations, and developing Plan B's in response. It has put us ahead of the curve right now! (Faculty, please note the ask towards the end of this message in bold.)

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) is sending the message attached and below to faculty and students with resources to support the conversation around graduate student academic and research continuity. You'll notice they have included a COVID-19 Mentoring Meeting Record, which can be used to supplement your conversations, as well as a guide to working from home and strategies for mentoring and supervision at a distance.

SGS has asked me to send them specific information about graduate continuity (below and attached) so they can start to understand the scope of the impact of COVID-19 on graduate research continuity and to inform their thinking about the answer to those questions many of you have already been asking, like program extensions and impacts on tuition and fees. SGS is interested in the following information (also found in the attached form "Summary of Disruptions to Graduate Student Research"):

- Access to educational activities (e.g. courses, conferences)
- Access to research activities
- Access to equipment or technology
- Availability to engage in academic activities (e.g. caregiving demands, international mobility)
- Interruptions to funding
- Unanticipated expenses
- Other

Faculty – Please complete the “Summary of Disruptions to Graduate Student Research” form for the students you are supervising. Some interpretative adaptation for the DLSPH context:

- Please translate the term “Chair” to “Supervisor” and identify yourself in that section.

- Please indicate the students you are advising in the “Other” Comments Box

Please send completed forms to David Cruickshank (david.cruickshank@utoronto.ca) by May 22, 2020 so we can compile the information and submit it to SGS for DLSPH.

Mental Health and Well-Being:

Please continue to take care of yourself. Supports continue to be available to you including:

- My Student Support Program ([My SSP](#))
- [Good2Talk Student Helpline](#) (1-866-925-5454)
- Please consider bookmarking the UofT StudentLife website that provides links to [other resources](#).
- The DLSPH [Staying Well](#) website