Late submission for Higher Degree by Research candidates impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Academic Board Resolution made by the President of the Board under the Academic Board Regulation, s(7) (1) (b)

All research candidates will be impacted, to various extents, by the Covid-19 disruption. This may require supervisors and advisory committees to work closely with candidates in adjusting their research programs to help mitigate the effects of disruption and achieve timely completions wherever possible. Despite this, additional time to submit, after the maximum candidature time has been consumed, will be required for some candidates. In recognition, adjustments to the provisions for late submission for HDR candidates have been approved.

The Courses, Subjects, Awards and Programs Policy (s4.73-7.75, and s4.82- 4.84) establishes course durations for Doctoral and Masters degrees by research. Late submission is permitted when compelling and serious research related reasons beyond the candidate’s control exist (Graduate Research Training Policy, s5.61, 5.62).

Disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic are recognised as compelling reasons.

To assist candidates in documenting Covid-19 related impacts, regardless of their stage of candidature, an online form (the impact record) has been developed. These impacts will be incorporated into subsequent candidate progress reports with the outcome of Advisory Committee discussions also recorded.

Documented periods of disruption to research progress resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic will be considered by Advisory Committees, together with any other concessions a candidate may have received, at the 3 year 6 months (EFT) timepoint for Doctoral Degree (Research) candidates and at 1 year 6 months (EFT) for Masters degree (Research) candidates.

Documenting disruption:

1. Documentation to support a Covid-19 case for a late submission beyond the maximum course duration will consist of periodically submitted impact records which identify the nature of disruption and its relationship to the pandemic as candidature proceeds. The record requires supervisor endorsement. An impact report identifies disruption to progress within a preceding specified period (if any disruption occurred during that period).

2. The generation of an impact record is entirely voluntary.

3. The cumulative impact of documented delays will be used as the basis for an Advisory Committee recommendation to the Dean for approval of a late submission beyond the allowable maximum course duration due to Covid-19 related disruptions.

4. A proforma to generate an impact record will be available online for candidates and supervisors. The proforma and process will be approved by the Academic Secretary.
Approval

Written by Penelope Pepperell (Academic Secretary)
Approved by Professor Nilss Olekalns (President, Academic Board) (made under Academic Board Regulation, s(7) (1) (b))
Consultation with: Professor Janet Hergt, Professor Andrew Kenyon, Professor Lea Delbridge
Date: 6 May 2020