

Exceptional Regulations for summer 19/20: 60-credit PGT Dissertation/Project: (masters students) (UNNC)

Due to the impact of COVID-19, the University recognises that students enrolled on Post Graduate Taught (PGT) programmes may not be able to complete project/dissertation work that was scheduled to take place during the summer of 2020 in the way that was originally planned. These regulations should be read in conjunction with the Exceptional Regulations on Assessment, PGT Progression, PGT Classification, and Extenuating Circumstances. The regulations below apply to those masters students who are attempting to undertake planned project/dissertation work during the period between January and September 2020. We shall keep these regulations under review and may extend the period further.

For the purpose of these regulations, we have identified three main categories of masters student completing dissertations/projects:

Students who can complete the project that was originally planned

PGDP1. Where possible, Schools should endeavour to advise students on how they can complete the project that was originally planned, without access to the physical resources and facilities that are available on campus. Some adjustments to expectations for the project (word limits, use of data and scholarship, access to resources and facilities) may be necessary.

Students who cannot complete the project originally planned but an alternative approach can be applied

PGDP2. Where Schools judge that PGT students will not be able to complete the project/dissertation work they originally planned, appropriate substitute research/scholarly activity should where possible be offered in its place for assessment. Schools should ensure that the substitute research/scholarly activity allows students to satisfy the learning outcomes of the programme. In these cases, Schools should consider an appropriate extension of the submission deadline, additional supervision, relaxation of the overall word count or word range, or truncation of non-essential components (e.g. assessed presentations).

In determining substitute research/scholarly activity, Schools should be able to demonstrate that programme level learning outcomes have been mapped and are covered by the set of assessments (already held or newly developed) appropriate to the point of the programme that the students have reached. These adjustments should be taken into consideration when applying the assessment criteria to the dissertation/project, and should be reported at the relevant exam board.

Students who cannot complete the project originally planned and no alternative approach can be applied

PGDP3. Where such an alternative research/scholarly activity cannot be provided Schools should offer students the opportunity either to extend their submission deadline into the next

academic year, or to interrupt their studies with a first sit at the first available opportunity. Where feasible, Schools should explore the possibility of completing the preliminary research work prior to the interruption of studies.