

(Approved March 17th for September 2021)

## **Criteria for COVID-19 Related Extension 2021**

The COVID-19 pandemic might cause delays for some graduate students in completing their degree program by the end of August 2021 as they had originally planned. The School of Graduate Studies will extend the deadline for final thesis submission to October 31, 2021 to qualify for a full refund of fall tuition. Students who will not be able to complete their degree requirement by this deadline can request a program time limit extension.

Wherever possible, extension of time and financial support for these students should be provided to mitigate the cost of having to continue their program into the fall term through no fault of their own. Graduate programs are strongly encouraged to consider the individual circumstances of students on a case-by-case basis and provide additional funding support where appropriate.

In addition, graduate programs should consider providing an extension to domestic and international students meeting the following criteria:

1. Completion of thesis research or other program requirements was significantly delayed or prevented because of COVID-19 closures of university facilities and/or restrictions on field research and/or health or family reasons directly related to COVID-19 circumstances. **A brief description of the delay and confirmation by the faculty supervisor must be provided.**
2. As of Fall 2021 term, the student will exceed their funding eligible period (i.e., term 7 for 2-year research Masters or term 4 for 1-year research Masters; term 13 for PhD) as a direct consequence of the delay caused by COVID-19.
3. The student has provided a plan, approved by the faculty supervisor and graduate program coordinator or department head, as to how the extra term will be used to complete their degree requirements.

On the recommendation of the graduate program, students meeting these criteria will be granted a one-term extension. **Students might be granted part time status for this one term extension period if they request that status<sup>1</sup>.** Before making a decision of changing their status, students are strongly encouraged to speak to their graduate program coordinator for advice on switching to part-time status. Students receiving government student financial assistance (e.g. OSAP or equivalent in other provincial or territorial jurisdictions) are encouraged to consult with the Student Awards Office to understand the implications of switching to part-time status.

On the recommendation of the graduate program, funding eligible international research Master's students who will exceed their funding eligible period as of September 1, 2021 will be granted domestic-equivalent status for one term for the purpose of assessing tuition.

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<sup>1</sup> Switching to part-time status may not be an option for everyone due to various provincial student assistance program regulations, including OSAP, and immigration laws.