

Funding extensions and funding support for postgraduate research students in cases of hardship (School of Mathematical & Physical Sciences)

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Funding extensions and/or funding support can be awarded to students who are experiencing

- financial hardship as a result of unforeseen changes in their financial circumstances, or
- other hardship due to unexpected extenuating circumstances (e.g. serious illness).

Funding extensions and funding support will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Funding extensions will usually only be granted for a maximum of six months.

If a student is experiencing financial or other hardship they should in the first instance consult their supervisors, the Student Life Centre, if appropriate, and then the Director of Doctoral Studies.

If the student decides to apply for a funding extension or funding support due to hardship, they should

- Make a case for the funding extension/support (in writing) and submit this to the Director of Doctoral Studies. The case should (i) state the nature of the hardship, providing details and evidence; (ii) state the period/amount of additionally requested funding; (iii) in cases of financial hardship: demonstrate why the financial assistance originally guaranteed¹ has ceased to be available; (iv) provide evidence of satisfactory progress in their studies; (v) describe the necessary additional work required, and a realistic and detailed time schedule towards completion.
- Ask their main supervisor to send a letter of support to the Director of Doctoral Studies.

The Director of Doctoral Studies will assess the request, taking into account all available information, including the student's case for funding extension, the supervisor's letter of support, the student's Annual Review documents and teaching performance, where appropriate, and make a recommendation to the Head of School.

The Head of School will decide whether or not to grant the request and inform the student of the decision.

¹ As a condition of registration, each student is required to give the financial guarantee that they 'have adequate financial provision to cover [their] living expenses and any fee liability'. Applicants for funding extension must demonstrate financial hardship as a result of unexpected changes rather than as a result of insufficient funding being available from the outset of the course.