



School of Graduate Research

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CRICOS Provider Code 00122A

Dear Examiner,

RE: COVID Impacts on HDR Research and Submissions

In March 2020, in response to the COVID pandemic, RMIT temporarily closed its Melbourne campuses. Candidates no longer had access to laboratories, studios and study spaces. In May, measures were put in place to allow candidates to have limited access to campus for the purpose of continuing their research. Concurrently, the Victorian government introduced a series of regulations limiting the contact between people which impacted face-to-face clinical research and data collection. As a result, many research students have had experimental, clinical, laboratory, field work, and/or data collection or analysis interrupted, and have had to make adjustments to their research plan to allow for remote and online research. Many students in art and design disciplines have had to present the outcomes of their research virtually rather than physically. Additionally, as no face-to-face contact could occur all supervision has been conducted virtually.

The lock-down measures also included the closure of schools and childcare centres as well as the introduction of learning from home for all school-aged children. Some candidates have had to balance childcare and home-schooling arrangements alongside the changes in their research plan. As a result, many students have also suffered from anxiety and stress-related issues, meaning their research progress was significantly delayed.

The following statement has been provided by the candidate to detail how their research and submission for examination have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions. All impacts have been confirmed by the candidate's Senior Supervisor. Please consider these factors when assessing this work.

Many thanks,

SGR Examination Team
RMIT University



Candidate Statement detailing the impacts of COVID-19 on their research and submission for examination

Candidate Full Name:

Submission title:

COVID Impact Statement:

Candidate Signature:

Date:

Supervisor Statement and Confirmation

Senior Supervisor Name:

Supervisor Comments:

Supervisor Signature:

Date: