**Covid-19 Impact Statement**

The SOAS Doctoral School recognise that the Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted all aspects of life around the world, and academic research is no exception. Many doctoral researchers have been seeking ways to move their projects forward despite the unprecedented challenges of lockdowns, social distancing measures, and international travel restrictions among other things. In response to this difficult situation, we are introducing a Covid-19 Impact Statement to enable a PhD candidate to explain to their examiners how their project has been affected by, and adapted to, the pandemic. This form will be available until further improvement of the situation.

Please note that this form is intended to set the context of examination and is not an application for leniency. There will be no change to the standards that a thesis and viva performance need to meet for award of a PhD. Please refer to our [PhD Examination Guidance](https://www.soas.ac.uk/doctoralschool/examprocedures/) page as well as the Quality Assurance Agency’s recently published [Advice on Doctoral Standards for Research Students and Supervisors](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/news-events/news/qaa-publishes-new-advice-on-doctoral-standards-for-research-students-and-supervisors).

Submission of a Covid-19 Impact Statement is entirely optional and there will be no disadvantage for not including one in your thesis. If you wish to submit your statement, you are encouraged to discuss it with your supervisor, refer to the instructions overleaf, and insert your statement in your thesis after your [Declaration](https://www.soas.ac.uk/doctoralschool/examprocedures/new-regs-2013/file87331.pdf) page. The form will be removed from the final copy of the thesis for library deposition.

Please use the space below (max. 600 words) to explain the impact that Covid-19 has had on your research. The statement should include any reasonable adjustments or adaptations of your original project in response to the pandemic.

* An outline of how Covid-19 has disrupted planned research activities -- e.g. closure or lack of access to facilities, impact on fieldwork due to travel restrictions, or impact on health or caring responsibilities.
* Actions taken to mitigate the impact.
* Any positive outcomes or additional lessons learnt as a result of having to adapt during the pandemic (if applicable).
* Any other information you think is relevant in relation to Covid-19 and its impact on your research.

 **Note for examiners**

Where a candidate has submitted a Covid-19 Impact Statement, examiners will be asked in their joint report to the Doctoral School to confirm that they have considered the statement. Examiners may choose to explore the contents of the statement with the candidate during the viva, but it should be noted that the institution is not lowering the quality threshold in any way and it is the examiners’ responsibility to ensure that the academic standards are upheld.

**Consent**

The SOAS Doctoral School would like to use the information on the form to assist in further understanding the disruption of Covid-19 on doctoral researchers. By ticking the box below, you, the candidate, consent to us using an anonymised version of this form to inform our future policy and student support.

I consent to an anonymised form being used by the SOAS Doctoral School. ⬜