



Guidelines for including a COVID-19 Impact Statement in a HDR thesis for examination

The research projects of many HDR candidates have changed due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. If your research has been impacted, you may choose to include a statement that addresses how your research was affected by COVID-19.

It is not compulsory to include a COVID-19 impact statement in your thesis and you should only do so under the advice of your supervisory panel. The final composition of the impact statement should be developed in careful consultation with your supervisory panel.

You may choose to include the statement as an upfront additional page in your thesis and/or address the impact within the content of the thesis.

Your statement should explicitly identify how your research was impacted by COVID-19. Your statement should not infer that the thesis submitted for examination is of an inferior quality or lower standard as a result of COVID-19. Your statement should not address any disruption due to changes to your personal circumstances, financial circumstances, illness or wellbeing due to COVID-19 as these should be addressed under the relevant University policies and processes prior to submission.

EXAMPLE STATEMENTS

The following example statements may be used as a guide when developing your own COVID-19 impact statement in consultation with your supervisory panel.

(1) A substantial amount of work developing a face-to-face laboratory study with participants had to be abandoned when COVID-19 restrictions were implemented in NSW. We were unable to fully transition the study to an online format due to the nature of the activities we needed to observe and we had significantly less control over the procedures. Unfortunately, the level of detail in the data collected was less than originally intended for this aspect of the study.

(2) The original intention was to conduct interviews in the field with participants from this industry. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, many of the businesses we had intended to work with were closed for a substantial period of time during the data collection phase of the project. This resulted in a smaller number of participants being recruited than initially intended.

(3) The extended closure of the primary physical archive over a period of several months due to COVID-19 restrictions meant that we could not access some of the key documents previously identified for analysis as part of this study. We had to change the focus of the research project to only include those documents that were available via an alternative archive.