**UKRI COVID-19 related Funding Extensions: Phase 3**

**CDT in Web Science Innovation**

**Introduction**

In March 2021, UKRI announced further budget flexibility for UKRI Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs) and Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs) to provide ongoing opportunities for funded extensions beyond the Phase 2 scheme. Key points:

* Funding extensions in UKRI Phase 3 must be run through the Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) or Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) that funds them.
* UKRI-funded students will need to make an application to the relevant CDT/DTP.
* Decisions on funding extensions for UKRI-funded students are a matter for the CDT/DTP and not the University.

The UKRI-funded extension schemes are **exclusively for COVID-19-related impacts**. The funding is not intended to cover ‘time lost’ due to COVID-19, but rather to address circumstances where, despite attempts at project adaptation or mitigation, students will be unable to complete their doctoral research within their current funding period.

This document sets out the eligibility requirements and application process for students based in the CDT in Web Science Innovation.

Please read this document in conjunction with the information available in the Phase III section of the University’s [PGR Funding Extensions Sharepoint site](https://sotonac.sharepoint.com/teams/PGRFundingExtension/SitePages/Phase%20I1.aspx).

**CDT Web Science Phase 3 scheme**

See: [CDT Web Science Phase 3 Funding Extension website](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/wsi/centre-for-doctoral-training/web-science-phase-3-funding-extensions.page)

The Phase 3 scheme will be open to applications from **1 August 2021.**  The scheme is scheduled to run during 2021/22 and 2022/23. There will be no set application rounds but applications will be considered on a rolling basis, typically at the start of each month, for applicants in the last six months of their funded period. The first applications will be considered in September 2021.

The maximum (unexceptional) period of funding extension is three months.

Applications will be prioritised according to need. UKRI recognises that particular groups of students may have been unable to mitigate delays or adjust their projects, for example disabled students, those with long-term illness, who are neurodivergent, or who have caring responsibilities.

This scheme is to extend your funding period. If you need to extend your candidature you should submit a request to your Faculty Special Considerations Board.

**Eligibility**

The Phase 3 scheme primarily aims to support CDT Web Science students who have not been eligible to apply through Phase 1 or 2, and who have been unable to adapt their project successfully to submit their thesis within their existing funding period.

* If you have not submitted your thesis, you may apply **within six months of the end of your current funding period.** You may apply at any time during this period but please allow sufficient time before your current funding is due to end.
* You may apply if you have transferred to nominal registration. However, your status means that you have already declared that your research work was complete and that a substantial draft of your thesis was seen by your supervisory team. This will be taken into account by the panel making the decisions.
* You may only submit one application to Phase 3, unless you can demonstrate a material, significant and exclusively COVID-related change in your circumstances since your previous application.
* In exceptional circumstances, you may apply to Phase 3 if you previously applied to Phase 1 or 2, whether your application was successful, unsuccessful or deemed ineligible. You would need to demonstrate that there has been a material, significant and exclusively COVID-related change in your circumstances since your previous application.
* All students registered with the CDT Web Science who meet the criteria above are eligible to apply, whatever their funding source. This includes those not funded directly from the CDT grant e.g. WSI studentships, Faculty studentships or industry funding. Where applicable, co-funders will be contacted if an application is successful.

**Application Process**

Please provide the following documents:

1. CDT Web Science Phase 3 Funding Extension application form – available [here](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/wsi/centre-for-doctoral-training/web-science-phase-3-funding-extensions.page)
2. COVID-19 Impact log – available [here](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/doctoral-college/researcher-resources/covid19-impact-log.page)
3. A supporting statement from your supervisor or another member of staff (academic or other). This can be an email or use the Statement of Support form - available [here](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/wsi/centre-for-doctoral-training/web-science-phase-3-funding-extensions.page)
4. Any other relevant documentation.

In your application you should address these key points:

* Why the extension is needed, and how it was exclusively related to COVID.
* What COVID-related impact occurred within your funded period.
* Why no alternative, viable mitigation was possible.
* Details of the work to be undertaken during the funded extension – this should be exclusively related to the research project.

Submit your application form and supporting documents to [websciencecdt@soton.ac.uk](mailto:websciencecdt@soton.ac.uk).

**Deadline**

Applications will be reviewed on a monthly basis so please apply **by the end of the relevant month.**

**Please allow sufficient time for your application to be considered and, if successful, for your funding extension to be processed, particularly if you are nearing the end of your funding period.**

**Outcome**

The CDT panel will aim to consider your application and inform you of their decision within the first two weeks of each month.

**Appeals**

You may only appeal the decision if you possess new substantive information supported by evidence that was not known or obtainable at the time of your application. If you wish to appeal, please contact us at [websciencecdt@soton.ac.uk](mailto:websciencecdt@soton.ac.uk) within 10 working days of being notified of the decision.

**Further information**

[CDT Web Science Phase 3 Funding Extension website](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/wsi/centre-for-doctoral-training/web-science-phase-3-funding-extensions.page)

[Doctoral College COVID-19 Impact Log](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/doctoral-college/researcher-resources/covid19-impact-log.page)

[University PGR Funding Extension Scheme Phase III](https://sotonac.sharepoint.com/teams/PGRFundingExtension/SitePages/Phase%20I1.aspx)

Contact us at [websciencecdt@soton.ac.uk](mailto:websciencecdt@soton.ac.uk)