**April 9 - ISGP Zoom Community Meeting Notes**

* Francisco Gomez Lopez (ISGP Student Peer Mentor) has put together a list of resources for students to share. Please [email](mailto:franciscojaviergomez@hotmail.com) him to request it.
* Main questions/concerns
  + - [Leave of absence](https://www.grad.ubc.ca/faculty-staff/policies-procedures/leave-status): If your academic progress has been significantly impacted by COVID-19, or you are absolutely unable to make any academic progress, you may request a leave of absence. Otherwise, we encourage students to find creative ways to continue with research or to continue on with another aspect of their study. We also recommend that students keep in touch with their supervisory committee to ask them for input and suggestions on working remotely.
    - Questions/Comments:
      * Should I request a Leave of Absence? A: It really depends on what stage of research as student is at. A leave of absence should only be requested if there is really no way for a student to make progress on their research. Once a student is on leave, they are barred from working on their research, accessing library resources, and collecting data, or contacting supervisory committee on academic-related issues.
  + Financial hardship: **If you are currently receiving Tri-Agency funding, your funding will stop if you go on a leave of absence**. If you are on a paid leave of absence, such as parental leave, you will be paid.
    - Additionally, if you were employed before the COVID-19 pandemic you can apply for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit ([CERB](https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/ei/cerb-application.html)). The only way to determine if you qualify for any of the benefits is to apply.
    - If you are facing financial difficulties as a result of COVID-19 you can approach enrollment services to be assessed for help.
    - Questions/Comments:
      * In what capacity can enrollment services help in this COVID-19 situation? A: They can help with financial planning and advising.
      * Can international students get support from CERB? A: recommend to approach enrollment services for assessment to see what resources they suggest and how they can help.
      * International students, as long as they have work permits are allowed to apply for EI and the CERB.
  + Program timeline: If your program end date is on April 30th, your program will be automatically extended by one additional term to August 31st.
    - Every student’s program timeline (candidacy, program expiration) has been pushed back by one-term (unofficially at the moment).
    - Tuition will not be waived or reduced as university operation model has switched to online. If you are making no progress whatsoever on your research, it is recommended that you apply for leave of absence (please refer to the leave of absence section above for more info/guidance).
    - Questions/Comments:
      * Do program extensions apply to those who have already had previous program extensions? A: Yes.
      * For those who have their tuition paid by scholarships from the ISGP, will the extension of payment also be extended by one term? A: ISGP has yet to determine the financial impact on the program and on the university as a whole. The office strive to continue supporting students on all fronts, but financial support continuation greatly depends on budget and the state of the university’s finance.
      * Summer tuition deadline has been deferred to June 15th.

**OTHER NOTES/QUESTIONS**

* Oral defences via Zoom: It works well, but may take a little longer (due to muting and un-muting microphones).Those who have a wireless connection are recommended to not have their video on as it may affect their audio quality.
* Article shared by Catriona Hippman: <https://hbr.org/2020/03/that-discomfort-youre-feeling-is-grief>
* Links provided by Enid: <https://www.grad.ubc.ca/current-students/final-doctoral-exam/scheduling-final-oral-defence>; <https://www.grad.ubc.ca/faculty-staff/policies-procedures/leave-status>
* What will the typical ISGP summer office schedule be like?
  + The ISGP Office operates as usual and is accessible via email or Zoom (if needed). If you have questions, please email them to Enid so that she can answer them and to set up meetings if needed.
* Will there be TA online opportunities if the university remains closed?
  + All classes have shifted to online format (even labs) and there will likely still be TA opportunities. We recommend that you check in with departments and professors to see how they will adapt and if the TA-ships will remain in place.