

Remote Research: Application process for 2022/2023 (doctoral researchers)

Background

While many of the restrictions put in place by governments to mitigate the Covid-19 pandemic have now been removed, there remain some challenges posed to researchers and it is likely that this will continue throughout the 2022/23 academic year.

As part of Goldsmiths' commitment to doctoral researchers, the College's primary expectation is that those undertaking research degrees are able to undertake their projects effectively, to access the support offered by the College and to engage with the academic community across the duration of their time with us.

In line with Goldsmiths' planning for the 2022/23 academic year, we expect that for many, this will ideally be in person, as part of an experience that is primarily campus-based. However, we also recognise that doctoral research is a highly individualised endeavour and that engagement and meaningful contact with the College takes different forms.

Where doctoral researchers have a demonstrable need to study (or continue to study) from a location other than the campus, for extended periods of 2022/23, flexibility will continue to be available. These students will continue to be able to access much of the central training and seminar provision facilitated by the Graduate School and will be permitted to apply for 'Remote Research' status for part, or all, of the 2022/23 academic year.

Where a doctoral researcher is approved for a period of Remote Research, it is expected that arrangements will be in place to ensure that the core aspects of the doctoral experience, such as contact time with supervisors, opportunities to engage with training and with the academic community and the means to access other support will be at an equivalent level to those studying on or near campus.

Tuition fee rates will therefore be the same regardless of location and there are no fee reductions associated with Remote Research status.

Process for approval

For 2022/23, the Graduate School will again oversee a formal process for individual doctoral researchers wishing to apply for extended periods of research and study outside of the UK. Applications should be made via the [Remote Research application form](#), the questions for which can be previewed in the appendix to this guidance. For the sake of clarity, this process is separate from the process of applying for permission for a period of overseas fieldwork normally at a third location (involving relocation), details of which may be found [here](#): what is set out below is the process for securing permission for other sorts of desk or practice-based research and study that involve extended periods outside of the UK without access to campus-based resources or in person contact.

Who should complete the application?

Any new or continuing doctoral researcher, whether home or international, within their normal period of registration who wishes to spend 12 weeks or more of the 2022/23 academic year conducting research remotely outside of the UK.

Who is exempt from completing the application?

- Any doctoral researcher who has been approved for 'Completion' status (also known as writing-up) for the 2021/22 academic year.
- Any doctoral researcher who has been approved for 'Continuation' status for the 2021/22 academic year.
- Any doctoral researcher (new or continuing) who is planning to relocate to undertake a period of overseas research fieldwork at a third location (not Goldsmiths campus and not the normal place of residence). In this scenario, students should instead refer to our guidelines about [international travel](#) and if appropriate complete an application to request Overseas Fieldwork status via the Graduate School's dedicated [online form](#).

When should an application be completed?

Applicants should normally complete the [Remote Research application form](#) at least one month before the start date of the intended Remote Research period.

How will applications be assessed?

Applications will be assessed based on the answers to the following questions and, where the advantages outweigh any disadvantages to the applicant, the period will normally be approved. In other cases, [interruption](#) may be advisable.

- What is the reason for the request for a period of remote research?
- Has the applicant confirmed that they have the facilities at their proposed study site to work effectively on their research (access to suitable study space and technology)?
- What measures have been put in place to ensure that the applicant will have regular access to supervision, peer support and access to appropriate resources necessary to ensure progress in their doctoral research?
- What, if any, in-person training required by their Department will be missed and how will this be remedied?
- Is the application supported by the applicant's supervisors and home Department?
- [If on a student visa] Has the applicant discussed any potential visa implications with the Immigration Advisory Service (IAS) prior to application?

What are the steps in the process?

- Doctoral researcher completes [Remote Research application form](#) (external link)
- Academic Department is asked to approve, with PGR convenor or Head of Department to endorse the application and certify they have confirmed details with, and have the support of, the applicant's supervisors
- Graduate School then reviews application and, if appropriate, approve, reject or refer back to applicant and Department.

Further information

If you have queries about this process, please contact graduateschool@gold.ac.uk

Appendix: Remote Research Application Form Questions

About you

Student number - If you are starting your programme in 2022/23 and do not yet know your student number, please leave this field blank

Full Name*

Goldsmiths email* - If you are starting your programme in 2022/23 and do not yet have a Goldsmiths email address, please use your personal email address

Department*

Main Supervisor*

Main supervisor email address*

Student visa holder?*

About your proposed period of Remote Research

Where do you plan to be based during your period of Remote Research? Please provide the country and city* -Please note, this excludes periods of annual leave, short research or conference trips. Remember, if you are intending to be based in the UK during this period, you do not need to complete this form. If you are intending to conduct Overseas Research Fieldwork, away from your normal place of residence, you do not need to complete this form

Duration (in weeks) of your proposed period of Remote Research* - Please note, you do not need to complete an application for periods of less than 12 weeks. The maximum period you can apply for is 52 weeks.

Start date of proposed period of Remote Research?*

End date of proposed period of Remote Research* - This must match with the duration (number of weeks) you are requesting

Please outline the reasons why you are applying for a period of Remote Research*

I will maintain regular contact with my supervisors and wider PGR community during my proposed period of Remote Research* - Hint: think about the platforms you plan to use to keep in touch (email, videoconferencing, phone), the frequency of meetings, and any factors (e.g. time difference, other commitments) that may impact your ability to access supervision and peer support

I will have sufficient access to any facilities, resources or stakeholders that may be required to make progress on my project during my proposed period of Remote Research* - Hint: think about libraries, archives, labs, studios, research participants, datasets, etc.

I will have access to appropriate training and development opportunities during my proposed period of Remote Research* - Hint: will you miss in-person training required by your Department and how will this be remedied? Think about other developmental activities such as the Graduate School's virtual seminar series and core methods modules, conferences or teaching

If you have answered 'No' to any of the above questions, please outline the particular challenges or difficulties that could arise from your period of Remote Research and how you intend to mitigate for them.* - Please note, if there are significant challenges arising from your personal circumstances and intended location for your period of Remote Research, it may be appropriate to seek out a period of interruption. For advice on interruptions, please contact graduateschool@gold.ac.uk

Are there any other challenges or difficulties that could arise from your period of Remote Research and, if so, how will you mitigate for them? - Please note, if there are significant challenges arising from your personal circumstances and intended location for your period of Remote Research, it may be appropriate to seek out a period of interruption. For advice on interruptions, please contact graduateschool@gold.ac.uk

Declarations

I have consulted with Goldsmiths Immigration Advisory Service (IAS) about the implications for my visa of my proposed period of Remote Research* - Please note, if you are a visa holder, you cannot submit this form if you have not discussed your plans with IAS

I have discussed my proposed period of Remote Research with my supervisors and Department*
- Please note, you cannot submit this form if you have not discussed your plans with your Supervisor and Department.

I understand that in the event that my request for a period of Remote Research is approved, my fee liability will not change, and I will not be entitled to any fee reductions*

I confirm that everything I have stated in this form is correct to the best of my knowledge*

September 2022