**School of Education**

**FAQs/advice in relation to ethical approval for UG and PGT dissertations**

**in light of restrictions aimed to combat spread of Covid-19**

Barbara Read, Convenor, School Ethics Forum, **08/04/2020**

*Due to the Coronavirus pandemic The University of Glasgow have had to change the way that Ethics research can be undertaken. Please read the below FAQ's and speak to your supervisor.*

**FAQs/advice in relation to ethical approval for dissertations and alternatives to existing fieldwork plans in light of restrictions aimed to combat the spread of Coronavirus**

Please also take note of any School-Specific Advice from your School’s Ethics Committee, and Programme-Specific advice given to you by your Programme Leader regarding dissertation plans

**I have already had my application approved for research with human participants, but now I need to change my plans as this type of research is no longer permitted. What should I do?**

At this stage you will need to discuss with your supervisor about moving to alternative dissertation options, such as

* An *extended research proposal* – this could include sections on your justification/rationale for your (hypothetical) project, research questions, a literature review, and an extended discussion of methodological and ethical issues, concluding with a discussion of what benefits the research could have and what further research could be conducted in this area in future. For students who have already begun writing initial chapters of an empirical dissertation, this may be the simplest way to adapt the work you have already done into a non-empirical dissertation.
* *Literature-based dissertations* – e.g. reviewing literature already published on a number of aspects/arguments of the topic you are interested in.
* *Document or policy analysis* – e.g. analysing in depth a range of policies on a topic you are interested in, or analysing particular issues or topics as they are represented in media such as fiction, textbooks, or newspaper articles
* *Personal reflection* – e.g. analysing a reflective log or your own lesson plans and materials if you are a practitioner

**I have a submitted application in the system that has not yet received approval. What should I do?**

Unfortunately we are no longer allowed to approve any UG or PGT applications for the current academic year (2019-20), and therefore your application will be returned to you. If your application is currently at the status ‘student changes required’ please do select ‘withdraw your application’ (via the dropdown menu of available options) and press submit. This will withdraw the application from the system.

We wish you luck in amending your plans in these difficult circumstances.

**Further information**

Up-to-date information can be found on the College Ethics webpage:

[https://www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/socialsciences/students/ethics/forms/undergraduateandpostgraduatetaughtstudents/#](https://www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/socialsciences/students/ethics/forms/undergraduateandpostgraduatetaughtstudents/) *(Undergraduate and Postgraduate Taught Students Forms and Guidance Notes)*

You can contact the School Ethics Forum using this e-mail address: [education-ethics@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:education-ethics@glasgow.ac.uk)