FGS staff are working from home and will continue to conduct business as best as possible under these circumstances. Because of this new distance-working mode, some areas may experience delays. We ask for your patience but be assured that your requests will be addressed based on priorities and time-sensitivity.

**Oral Examinations scheduled prior to March 31, 2020 - updated information**

- Until further notice, all examinations scheduled prior to March 31, 2020 (Thesis Proposal, Candidacy, Thesis Defence) must be held and attended virtually and must be closed.
- Until further notice, FGS approvals for video/telephone presence is not required for all examinations scheduled prior to March 31, 2020. FGS is available to facilitate upcoming Ph.D. Thesis examinations where possible.
- For Ph.D. thesis defences, it is the responsibility of the Advisor/Unit to ensure that audiovisual equipment runs smoothly throughout the examination. Any challenges encountered should be documented on the Final Report Form regarding the outcome of the examination. Please indicate if the examination was not able to proceed and requires rescheduling.
- Chair packages are being sent electronically. Please note that they will not include programs; if students wish to request programs as keepsakes, they may do so by emailing Kasey Morgan at Kasey.Morgan@umanitoba.ca. Programs will be made available once access to campus is restored.
- The Final Report Form should be signed electronically (see attached document on how to sign a PDF) and submitted electronically to FGS.
- International students: If you are concerned with potential delays in completing your program due to the above adjustments, we encourage you to contact an Advisor at the International Centre (IC) to discuss some important considerations. You can reach an Advisor at the IC by sending an email, with your full name and student number, to international@umanitoba.ca.

**Oral Examinations scheduled beyond March 31, 2020 - updated**

- FGS will work with units regarding any oral Ph.D. thesis examinations scheduled after March 31, 2020. Students fulfilling their program requirements will be eligible to graduate at the next graduation date.
- International students: If you are concerned with potential delays in completing your program due to the above adjustments, we encourage you to contact an Advisor at the International Centre (IC) to discuss some important considerations. You can reach an Advisor at the IC by sending an email with your full name and student number, to international@umanitoba.ca.

**Spring Convocation 2020**

Spring convocation 2020 has been cancelled; however, students fulfilling their program requirements by March 31, 2020 will be eligible to graduate in June 2020. The University is working on alternate plans for a celebration at the appropriate time in the future.

**Registration**

The Registrar's Office has indicated that registration for GRAD 6000, GRAD 7020, GRAD 7022, and GRAD 8020 will be open in April. Check [umanitoba.ca/coronavirus](https://umanitoba.ca/coronavirus) and [umanitoba.ca/registrar](https://umanitoba.ca/registrar) for the most up-to-date information.
Progress Report Form - updated information

- FGS requires that each graduate student complete the "Progress Report Form" normally due June 1. This review provides an excellent opportunity to document achievements, develop a plan to address deficiencies and establish expectations/goals for the coming year. As in-person contact and on-site presence has virtually ceased, this will also provide an opportunity to discuss expectations while working from home.

- While we encourage submission of the Progress Report Form for June 1, we are extending this deadline to July 1 in light of the Covid-19 crisis and the extra stresses imposed on Faculty and students at this time. The Advisory Committee meeting is to be virtual using available resources (WebEx, BlueJeans, Zoom, telephone, etc.). Electronic signatures of PDFs of the report are acceptable. Once signed by the Graduate Chair/Unit Head, please forward the forms to FGS. Progress Report Forms will be processed as they are received in the office; receiving them in bulk may require more time to complete processing.

- Any exceptional requests can be addressed to the Dean/Associate Dean.

Awards - new information

- The deadlines for all current internal University of Manitoba awards competitions have been pushed back to May 1, 2020; deadlines for newly advertised internal awards will be set for June 2020 and beyond where possible.

- We continue to accept GETS applications and UMGF recommendations; however, there will be some delay in processing. We are working as efficiently as possible.

- The Tri-Agencies have indicated the CGS-M results will not be available on April 1, 2020 as planned; more information will be coming when available. The FGS awards office will accommodate extensions regarding responses so that students awaiting their CGS-M application results can make informed decisions about potential offers of admission.

Admissions to Graduate Studies - updated information

English Proficiency Testing: University Senate has approved as of March 18, 2020 to temporarily allow the use of the Duolingo English Test (englishtest.duolingo.com) for the Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 intakes, with a minimum acceptable test score of 115.

Admission Application Deadlines: The Faculty of Graduate Studies will consider accommodating Department/Unit level decisions that might impact admission timelines.

Admission Deferrals: The Faculty of Graduate Studies will accommodate admission deferrals while registration is suspended or in the event that travel is prohibited, or quarantine/self-isolation is required.

We are currently working through mechanisms to best contact prospective students.

In closing, the extent of the threat of Covid-19 transmission in Manitoba and Canada is evolving rapidly. We are attempting to adapt our decisions as new information comes in. Go to umanitoba.ca/coronavirus for access to past and current communications.

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