The Faculty of Graduate Studies continues to serve your needs. Here is what is new in the current distancing reality caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

**COVID-19 UM Student Emergency Fund**
The University of Manitoba and the Faculty of Graduate Studies have established a relief fund to provide financial support in the form of a bursary for Master’s and Ph.D. students facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Information and application forms can be found [here](http://umanitoba.ca/student/fin_awards/pandemic-relief-fund.html).

**Grades for Fall 2019-Winter 2020 and Winter 2020 courses**
On April 1, 2020 Senate Executive approved a new "Pass/Fail Grading Choice". Options are:

- Standard: Accept the Letter grade received
- Option 1: Accept the Letter grade received but exclude it from UM GPA calculations
- Option 2: Choose to have performance categorized as "Pass" or "Fail"

Students are required to declare their grading choice on or before May 10, 2020 to the Registrar's Office. Once final grades are available on Aurora, you will be able to make this choice. The process to do so is still being determined, but will be communicated as soon as possible.

Please note that students are obliged to meet all existing admission, prerequisite, progression, degree and graduation policies and requirements that apply to them. **Students are strongly encouraged to seek advice before choosing either Option 1 or Option 2.**

**F Grades**
On April 1, 2020, Senate Executive approved that any failing grade received by a student for Winter Term 2020 will automatically be excluded from all UM GPA calculations. Such grades will be notated on the transcript as having been excluded from UM GPA calculations.

**Incoming International Graduate Students**
Incoming graduate students who obtained a study permit prior to March 18, 2020 are potentially eligible to enter Canada; however, the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the closure of all University of Manitoba buildings. Given the challenges associated with travel and the obligatory 14-day isolation required upon arrival, the Faculty of Graduate Studies advises that all incoming International graduate students remain in their home country for the summer term (May to August, inclusive). The Faculty of Graduate Studies will contact Heads/Graduate Chairs/Advisors on a case-by-case basis to establish a plan for all International Graduate Students whose arrival at the University of Manitoba is pending. Additional information will be provided. Please check the [Faculty of Graduate Studies website](http://umanitoba.ca) for updates.

**Oral Examinations** (thesis proposal, candidacy, thesis defence, comprehensive)
Departments/Units may continue to schedule oral examinations to be conducted electronically using a number of different platforms. Please refer to the document entitled "[Faculty of Graduate Studies Guide for Virtual Oral Examinations](http://umanitoba.ca)" for procedures that will facilitate the experience.

**Registration**
Registration for GRAD-prefixed courses will open April 20, 2020.
**Student Services**
You can still access student services despite the closure of all University of Manitoba buildings. Staff in the counselling office, advising centres, health services, spiritual care, and faculty offices remain available either online, by email or both means. Please refer toumanitoba.ca/coronavirus for details and updates.

If **International students** have any concerns, we encourage you to contact an Advisor at the International Centre to discuss some important considerations. You can reach an Advisor at the International Centre by sending an email with your full name and student number to international@umanitoba.ca.

**Time in Program Extension**
On March 25, 2020, Senate Executive approved a 4-month extension to the maximum time allowed for the completion of degree requirements for all graduate students. All students registered in the 2019/20 academic year are eligible for this one-term extension. The Faculty of Graduate Studies is currently extending the program end dates for all students whose program expires May 2020 and who did not complete the program requirements to October 2020. Extensions for students with end dates beyond may 2020 will be processed at the time that the end is reached.

Go to theumanitoba.ca/coronavirus webpage for the most current University of Manitoba directives.