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**From:** Lynn Cooley, Dean of the Graduate School <grad.dean@message.yale.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 7:24 PM  
**Subject:** Re-sending: Clarification of funding extensions

**Yale**

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Copied to: FAS DGSs and Chairs, Registrars, GSAS Staff  
In this message: clarification of funding extensions

April 28, 2020

Dear FAS Ph.D. student,

It has come to my attention that not all students received my April 24<sup>th</sup> message offering clarification of funding extensions for sixth-year students, dissertation withdrawals and the new Alumni Fellowships. I apologize for any confusion this may have caused - we are looking into the source of the problem.

I have included the original message below. Please read it carefully and note that we have extended the deadline for withdrawal of dissertations to **Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>**.

Sincerely,

Lynn Cooley  
Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences  
C.N.H. Long Professor of Genetics  
Professor of Cell Biology and of Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology

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April 24, 2020

Dear FAS Ph.D. student,

Earlier this week I wrote to you with detailed guidelines for the funding extensions your programs may offer to help offset any pandemic-related delays to your research (at the bottom of this message). This is an unprecedented measure for all of us, and I appreciate your communicating your questions to me. We are also preparing an FAQ to address questions about these and other accommodations -- that will be posted in the coming days. I hope for now this message will provide some clarification:

**The accommodations for current sixth-year students who have not submitted their dissertations and for sixth-year students who have submitted their dissertations are different.** Sixth-year students who have **not** submitted their dissertations are eligible for the maximum funded extension of 12 months, starting in June, at the discretion of their programs.

Sixth-year students who have submitted their dissertations for a May degree may withdraw them by the April 26<sup>th</sup> deadline and then be eligible for a single six-month extension of funding at the discretion of their programs.

This means that students who withdraw and take a six-month extension of funding must resubmit their dissertations for the December 2020 degree, ending their student status and eligibility for a further extension beyond the fall term. That is, you can opt for only one extension as you progress toward your degree.

**May 2020 graduates are eligible to apply to the Graduate School Alumni Fellowship, announced on Monday.** This is post-graduate employment at Yale for 10 months, beginning on August 1<sup>st</sup> with a salary of \$30,000 with benefits (annualized salary rate of \$36,000). Applicants do not need to withdraw their dissertations to apply, but you may do so if you wish. If you receive one of the fellowships and have withdrawn your dissertation, you must immediately resubmit it upon receipt of the fellowship, for a December 2020 degree.

All other sixth-year students who withdraw dissertations are eligible for a one-term extension only (Fall '20) and must resubmit for a December 2020 degree.

Students currently in year seven, whether graduating in May 2020 or not, are ineligible for funding extensions, though they may seek extended registration.

Thank you for your patience as we work as fast as we can to develop fair and sustainable ways to support you now and into the future. My staff and I will share more information with you as we have it. Until then, please stay in touch and take care of yourselves and your loved ones.

With sincere wishes for your health and well-being,

Lynn Cooley

Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

C.N.H. Long Professor of Genetics

Professor of Cell Biology and of Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology

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In this message: Information about extensions for Ph.D. students in FAS departments

April 22, 2020

Dear FAS Ph.D. students,

I hope this message finds you as well as can be in the midst of the abrupt changes to our lives caused by the pandemic. I have heard from many of you about the impact of COVID-19 on your work, including the closure of libraries, collections and laboratories on our campus, suspension of travel for field work, and concern about family members. I have received many requests for extensions of funding to replace lost time since we closed in March. I am glad to be able to share our current plan for extensions to assist you in resuming your progress toward the goals you came to Yale to accomplish.

In consulting with the DGSs, we have learned there are nuances in the effects of the pandemic on student progress across programs and cohorts. The Graduate School will rely on graduate programs to decide how best to make extension accommodations for students whose research and writing has been impacted by COVID-19. My office will work closely with your DGSs and faculty to provide accommodations within these parameters:

- The maximum accommodation a program may offer is a 12-month extension of funding to all students in years 1-6, although most programs will configure a more tailored offering. We do not imagine that all students will require such extensions, and the expectation is that students do everything possible to finish within the typical six-year timeframe for doctoral study.
- No extensions may be finalized until the start of a student's sixth year of study.
- In grant-funded programs, no extensions will be promised until grant funding has been exhausted.
- Each extension includes a teaching obligation at the standard departmental level.
- Programs may make blanket funding extensions by cohort or on an individual student basis. Extensions may be for a term or a year.
- Students currently on a University Dissertation Fellowship (UDF) will automatically receive an additional term of UDF in Fall 2020, unless they request to teach and postpone their UDF.
- Students currently in year seven are eligible for extended registration and the accompanying Yale Health Award in year eight. However, they are not eligible for additional stipend funding. If an opportunity is available, they may teach at the teaching stipend rate.
- May 2020 graduates are invited to apply to the Graduate School Alumni Fellowship announced earlier this week. Successful applicants to the Fellowship who have withdrawn their dissertations will resubmit their dissertations immediately upon receipt of the Fellowship. Other applicants who have withdrawn their dissertations will resubmit for a December 2020 degree; these students will be eligible for accommodations according to parameters above.

We will do everything we can to help you complete your degrees and meet the challenges before us successfully. If you have questions or concerns, please do contact your DGS or me directly as ever. In the meantime, I look forward to better days when we can all see each other again in person.

With sincere wishes for your good health and well-being,

Lynn Cooley

Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

C.N.H. Long Professor of Genetics

Professor of Cell Biology and of Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology

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[Graduate School of Arts and Sciences](#)



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