

Introduction

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), supported by UKRI and Universities UK, has commissioned Vitae to gather evidence to understand the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic on the activities of researchers and research groups.

BEIS is undertaking this work to assess the current and expected impact of Covid-19 on research activity and the research community to inform its consideration and design of potential interventions that Government and others could make to help protect UK researchers, research institutions and facilities, and in the longer term reinforce the research base and sustain research and innovation activity in the UK.

This online survey is to obtain a snapshot of the experiences of researchers in terms of how the pandemic and mitigating strategies, such as the lockdown since 23 March, are impacting on their work. Critically, we are also interested in your perceptions of the implications for you and your research group if social distancing in the workplace is required in the months ahead.

The survey compliments wider intelligence being gathered from research organisations, which together will help quantify the impact Covid-19 is having within different research disciplines and types of research organisation.

All researchers employed in UK universities, research institutes, charities and companies are invited to respond to the survey. We are particularly interested to hear from principal investigators and leaders of research groups.

The survey will take between 15-20 mins to complete depending on which sections you are eligible to complete. All questions are optional except for those required to route you to questions pertinent to your experience and circumstances.

You will not be identified or identifiable in any published results. At the end of the survey we ask for your contact details if you are willing to be contacted in any follow on research. This information will be stored separately from the main data.

Your data will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR). Information about how your response data will be processed and stored can be found in our [Data Privacy Notice](#). If you would like more information please contact janet.metcalfe@vitae.ac.uk

*** 1. Please confirm that you consent for your responses to be processed by Vitae on behalf of BEIS in accordance with the Data Privacy Notice. If you do not give this consent, your responses will not be included in any analysis.**

Yes

No

Exit

We note that you do not wish to proceed, so you will now exit the survey unless you press the 'Prev' button. Thanks for your cooperation nonetheless.

Section 1. Researcher characteristics

This section asks about your employment circumstances and disciplinary focus. If you have more than one job/post, please answer in relation to your main or primary job/post.

* 2. Where are you primarily employed?

- Higher education institution (HEI)
- Public research institute
- Hospital/healthcare setting
- Charity
- Commercial organisation
- Museum, library or archive
- Central / local government
- Other (please specify)

3. Please use the dropdown list to select your HE Institution.

[Please note, this information will only be used to create groups of broad types of organisations and regional analysis - we will not analyse data at institution level, nor use this to identify respondents.]

4. If you are happy to share the name of your organisation, please enter below.

[Please note, this information will only be used to create groups of broad types of organisations and regional analysis - we will not analyse data at organisational level, identify organisations, nor use this to identify respondents.]

5. Which disciplinary grouping most closely aligns with your research area?

- A1 Clinical Medicine
- A2 Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care
- A3 Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing and Pharmacy
- A4 Psychology, Psychiatry and Neuroscience

- A5 Biological Sciences
- A6 Agriculture, Veterinary and Food Science
- B7 Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences
- B8 Chemistry
- B9 Physics
- B10 Mathematical Sciences
- B11 Computer Science and Informatics
- B12 Engineering
- C13 Architecture, Built Environment and Planning
- C14 Geography and Environmental Studies
- C15 Archaeology
- C16 Economics and Econometrics
- C17 Business and Management Studies
- C18 Law
- C19 Politics and International Studies
- C20 Social Work and Social Policy
- C21 Sociology
- C22 Anthropology and Development Studies
- C23 Education
- C24 Sport and Exercise Sciences, Leisure and Tourism
- D25 Area Studies
- D26 Modern Languages and Linguistics
- D27 English Language and Literature
- D28 History
- D29 Classics
- D30 Philosophy
- D31 Theology and Religious Studies
- D32 Art and Design: History, Practice and Theory
- D33 Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts, Film and Screen Studies
- D34 Communication, Cultural and Media Studies, Library and Information Management
- Other

*** 6. With which of these levels of researcher do you most closely identify?**

- Postgraduate researcher, doctoral candidate
- Early career researcher, typically postdoctoral researcher, research staff, research assistant
- Established researcher, typically lecturer, associate professor, research manager
- Senior researcher, typically professor, reader, research group leader, research director
- Not applicable

7. What is the nature of your current employment contract?

- Open-ended/permanent
- Open-ended but limited by funding
- Fixed term
- Casual / hourly-paid
- Not sure

8. Are you currently employed

- Full-time?
- Part-time?

Doctoral researchers

9. Which year of study are you in?

- 1st year
- 2nd year
- 3rd year
- 4th year
- 5th year
- 6th year
- 7th year or beyond

10. Are you studying...

- Full-time?
- Part-time?

Section 2: Research funding

This section asks about your research project funding.

11. Please indicate if you have any research project funding from the following sources. Select all that apply.

- Your organisation/research institute/HEI
- UKRI (e.g. Research Councils, Innovate UK etc)
- Charity / foundation (e.g. CRUK, Wellcome, Leverhulme Trust)
- UK academy or professional body (e.g. British Academy, Royal Society)
- EU (e.g. Horizon 2020 funding)
- National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)
- UK industry (private businesses)
- UK government departments (including devolved administrations)
- Other international funding
- Self-funded
- None of these
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

*** 12. Which one of these is your current main source of research project funding?**

- Your organisation/research institute/HEI
- UKRI (e.g. Research Councils, Innovate UK, etc.)
- Charity / foundation (e.g. CRUK, Wellcome, Leverhulme Trust)
- UK academy or professional body (e.g. British Academy, Royal Society)
- EU (e.g. Horizon 2020 funding)
- National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)
- UK industry (private businesses)
- UK government (including devolved administrations)
- Other international funding
- Self-funded
- None of these
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

13. Which of these is your main source of research project funding?

- AHRC
- BBSRC
- EPSRC
- ESRC
- MRC
- NERC
- STFC
- Innovate UK

14. Which charity or foundation is your main source of research project funding?

- British Heart Foundation
- Cancer Research UK
- Wellcome
- Leverhulme Trust
- Nuffield Trust
- Other (please specify)

*** 15. Are you currently a grant holder or principal investigator, i.e. named lead on externally-funded research grant/s?**

- Yes
- No

16. What is the approximate size of the annual external research project funding you manage?

- Less than 10k
- £10k - £50k
- £51k - £100k
- £101k - £500k
- £501k - £1M
- Over £1M

*** 17. Based on your current understanding of the situation, do you anticipate any change in research funding of your work between March 2020 and March 2021 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic?**

- I anticipate my funding will decrease
- No change
- I anticipate my funding will increase

18. Please estimate the extent you anticipate your funding will decrease as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic:

- Less than 10%
- 10%-19%
- 20% - 39%
- 40% - 59%
- 60% - 79%
- 80% - 99%
- 100%
- Don't know

19. Please estimate the extent you anticipate your funding will increase as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic:

- Less than 10%
- 10%-19%
- 20% - 39%
- 40% - 59%
- 60% - 79%
- 80% - 99%
- 100% or more
- Don't know

*** 20. Have you made any enquiries to your funder/s about possible additional funding or extension to your research project/s because of the Covid-19 pandemic?**

- Yes
- No

21. What type of enquiry have you made to your funder/s? Select all that apply.

- Permission to make virements (i.e. move money within project/s)
- Possibility of extension without extra funding
- Possibility of extension with extra funding due to COVID-19 related costs
- Possibility of additional funding to cover extra costs due to COVID-19 restrictions, without an extension
- Other (please specify)

Section 3. Current impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on your research activities

This section asks how the current 'lockdown' conditions have impacted on your personal research activity.

22. To what extent have you experienced the following disruptions to your research, since 23 March 2020, when 'lockdown' came into effect?

	Significant extent	Some extent	Not at all	Not applicable
Your research has been delayed	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You have had to terminate critical experiments/trials	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You have lost important data	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You have had reduced collaboration with businesses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Future funding opportunities have decreased	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Publication of your research has been delayed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You have been spending time converting teaching to online delivery	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
You have felt your job is under threat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

23. To what extent have you experienced the following, since 23 March 2020, when 'lockdown' came into effect?

	Significant extent	Some extent	Not at all	Not applicable
More flexibility with working patterns	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gained extension/s to research project and extra funds to cover it	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gained extension/s to research project without extra funding	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Faster sharing of research findings and data	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased publications output	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Explored new research directions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Switched to work on Covid-19 related research	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Switched to work on non-research Covid-19 jobs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improved cross-discipline working	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Higher profile for your research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

24. Have you been affected in any of these ways since 23 March 2020, when 'lockdown' came into effect? (select all that apply) You have...

- Reduced capacity to work due to caring responsibilities
- Had less research time due to increased teaching load
- Been furloughed using the government's Job Retention Scheme
- Had your employment contract extended
- Come to the end of your contract
- Been unable to access your laboratory facilities/archives
- Had to postpone/cancel important meetings/conferences
- None of these

25. What has been most challenging about sustaining your research since 23 March 2020, when 'lockdown' came into effect? Please describe briefly below.

26. Please indicate the approximate number of hours in the average working week:

Number of hours

You worked before the 23 March 'lockdown'

You are currently working during the 'lockdown'

27. Please indicate the approximate percentage of time you were/are spending on the following activities in the average working week:

Please check that each column adds up to 100%

	In the weeks before the 23 March 'lockdown'	During weeks of 'lockdown'
Research activities that cannot usually be done from your home, e.g. experiments, fieldwork, archive access	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Desk-based research, e.g. data analysis, surveys, interviews, literature review	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Writing papers	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Peer review and evaluation of research proposals	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Preparing research grant/fellowship applications	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Leadership and management responsibilities	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Supervision	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Academic networking and dissemination activities	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
IP/commercialisation and business collaboration activities	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Teaching (online or face-to-face), including preparation	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Administrative responsibilities	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>	

28. To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the support you have had since 23 March, when 'lockdown' came into effect?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
My employer has provided information/support to help me continue my research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My employer has provided support and/or advice to help me work remotely	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My employer has done all I believe they can/should do to support my wellbeing at this time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My (principal) funder has provided information/support to help me continue my research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My (principal) funder has done all I believe they can / should do to support my research at this time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 29. Are you responsible for a group of researchers?

- Yes
- No

Section 4: Research group responsibilities

This section asks how the Covid-19 lockdown has impacted on the research activities of your research group.

30. What is your best estimate of the number of people in your research group for each of the following categories (before 23 March 2020)?

	Number of people
Researchers	<input type="text"/>
Technicians	<input type="text"/>
Doctoral candidates	<input type="text"/>

31. Within your research group, excluding doctoral candidates, what is your best estimate of the number of people who have been affected in the following ways since 23 March 2020, when 'lockdown' came into effect?

	Number of people affected
Have been ill with diagnosed or suspected COVID-19	<input type="text"/>
Have reduced capacity due to caring responsibilities	<input type="text"/>
Have reduced capacity for research due to increased teaching load	<input type="text"/>
Have been furloughed using the government's Job Retention Scheme	<input type="text"/>
Have been made redundant	<input type="text"/>
Have visa concerns	<input type="text"/>
Have switched to work on Covid-19 research	<input type="text"/>
Have switched to work on non-research Covid-19 jobs	<input type="text"/>
Have had their contract extended due to Covid-19 restrictions	<input type="text"/>

Other (please specify)

32. Please could you estimate the extent of changes in the amount of the following types of work in your research group overall as a result of Covid-19 lockdown?

	Substantially decreased	Somewhat decreased	No significant change	Somewhat increased	Substantially increased	Don't know
Research activities that cannot usually be done from your home, e.g. experiments, fieldwork, archive access	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Desk-based research, e.g. data analysis, surveys, interviews, literature review	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Writing papers	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer review and evaluation of research proposals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preparing research grant/fellowship applications	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leadership and management responsibilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supervision	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Academic networking and dissemination activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
IP/commercialisation and business collaboration activities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teaching (online or face-to-face), including preparation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Administrative responsibilities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

33. If social distancing restrictions are required for another six months from now, please estimate the likelihood of the following potential risks to your research group:

	Very likely	Fairly likely	Neither likely or unlikely	Fairly unlikely	Very unlikely	Not applicable
Less capacity for research due to caring responsibilities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Less capacity for research due to staff having additional teaching responsibilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Loss of staff due to visa restrictions/end dates	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Less capacity due to staff furloughing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Loss of fixed-term contract researchers	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Permanent staff made redundant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Staff choosing to leave academic research	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Reduced commercially-sourced income	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adverse effect on publications	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)

34. If social distancing restrictions are required for another six months from now, please estimate how many of the following types of research group members will not be able to continue in their post unless you receive costed extensions to your research funding.

	End employment	Be furloughed
Academic staff / permanent staff	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Research staff on fixed-term contracts	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Doctoral candidates	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Technicians	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Other (please specify)

Section 5. Ongoing Covid-19 restrictions

This section asks you to anticipate the impact of ongoing restrictions due to Covid-19.

35. If you can return to your workplace from June 2020, but with social distancing restrictions in place, what do you anticipate your overall level of research activity will be 6 months from now?

- Will adjust back to pre-March 2020 level
- Will improve from current lockdown level but not to pre-March 2020 level
- Will be the same as during the current lockdown conditions
- Will reduce further from current level
- Research activity will stop completely
- Don't know

36. If social distancing restrictions are in place for the next six months, to what extent are you concerned about the following?

	Significantly concerned	Concerned to some extent	Not concerned at all	Not applicable
Your reduced capacity to work due to caring responsibilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Less time for research due to increased teaching load	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Being furloughed using the government's Job Retention Scheme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not having your employment contract extended	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coming to the end of your employment contract	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Having to postpone/cancel important experiments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Having to postpone/cancel important meetings/conferences	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Impact on your publication record	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

37. What new ways of working or new resources would help your research continue if social distancing restrictions (in the workplace) continues for the next six months or more?

Section 6: About you

This information is sought so that we can consider differences between various groups of respondents.

*** 38. What is your nationality?**

- UK/British national
- National of a European Union member state (not the UK)
- National of a country outside the European Union

39. Which of the following best describes your ethnicity?

- White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British
- White: Irish
- White: Gypsy or traveller
- Other White background
- Mixed White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed White and Black African
- Asian or Asian British – Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Other Asian background
- Black or Black British – Caribbean
- Black or Black British – African
- Other Black background
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)

40. What is your gender?

- Woman
- Man
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say
- Not listed

Please specify if not listed

41. Do you have an impairment, health condition or learning difference that has a substantial or long term impact on your ability to carry out day to day activities?

- No known impairment, health condition or learning difference
- A long standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy
- A mental health difficulty, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder
- A physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using your arms or using a wheelchair or crutches
- A social/communication impairment such as a speech and language impairment or Asperger's syndrome/other autistic spect
- A specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D
- Blind or have a visual impairment uncorrected by glasses
- Deaf or have a hearing impairment
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)

42. Do you have any caring responsibilities? (select all that apply)

- None
- Primary carer of a child/children under 18 years
- Primary carer of a disabled child or children
- Primary carer or assistant for a disabled adult (18+ years)
- Primary carer or assistant for an older person or people (65+ years)
- Secondary carer (another person carries out the main caring role)
- Prefer not to say

43. In which UK nation or English region is your main workplace?

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Wales
- East Midlands
- East of England
- London
- North East
- North West
- South East
- South West
- West Midlands
- Yorkshire and The Humber

Section 7: Final questions

44. Are you willing to be re-contacted for follow up research? To ensure your responses are anonymous, this information is stored separately from your responses.

Yes

No

45. If you are willing to be re-contacted, please provide your contact details

Name

Email address

46. Are there any other comments you would like to make on how to minimise the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on your ongoing research activity?

Thank you

To submit your answers please click on the 'Submit survey' button below.