For many candidates, it may now be difficult to meet the milestones that were set approx. 12 months ago in significantly different circumstances. Given the COVID-19 situation, it is unlikely any candidate’s progress should be assessed as unsatisfactory if the issues and delays are related to impacts of the pandemic. Milestones can be assessed as “partially achieved” or “non-applicable” with written justification.

PANEL CHAIRS please document delays and circumstances in the review recommendations (if any) so candidates can rely on this record for any overtime requests or other considerations in the future.

FUTURE MILESTONES set in the coming review are critical. Candidates & supervisors should develop timelines for completing their thesis & set milestones that are realistic and achievable in the circumstances. For example, if lab-based work/fieldwork is now not possible in the coming months, they should be encouraged to focus on writing or other research activities. Discussing the options with their supervisor & review panel is important. These plans must be uploaded to GRIS as part of the review.

It is clear that opportunities for some candidates to carry out the research are limited. For such cases, the panel & supervisor should discuss options of:
(i) Change of study load to part-time
(ii) Take program leave