

Impact of COVID-19 on Research

Note that this is a living document and will be updated as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves.

Discussing Impact of COVID-19 in Research Applications & CVs

Funding sponsors and agencies (such as SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR, and others) may provide space as part of research funding applications to describe the impacts of COVID-19 on your research, supervision of students, and research dissemination. Often these applications will require a statement of the nature of the impact, such as complete disruption of research activities or a slow in research productivity where research does not cease, but proceeds at a slower pace. In some instances, the application will permit you to increase what you include in your list of research contributions timeframe windows beyond what is typically allowed (which is usually 6-years). For example in the case of SSHRC, an increase to the normal 6 year bibliography of research outputs is allowed if you claim your research was halted due to COVID-19 or other leaves. You can therefore request the committee accept an overall six years of *research activity* be considered rather than simply the last 6 chronological years. Some applications do not allow an increase to the timeframe window, but rather they allow you to contextualize fewer research publications, outputs, graduation of supervised students, etc. It is up to applicants, after assessing the nature of the impact on them personally, to make a case for their halted or reduced research and outline their circumstances. Applicants who have taken leave on account of COVID-19 should also state they were on medical leave and use the associated leave dates.

Assessing COVID-19 Impact

Only researchers themselves can fully assess the impact of COVID-19 on their work and professional lives: everyone's situation is different. While statements might be directed towards scholarly productivity and/or supervision and mentoring, the simple fact remains that COVID-19 disrupted everything.

NSERC provides some helpful language in outlining the impact of COVID-19 on research and personal circumstances that can be (loosely) used for all grant applications:

https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Politiques/COVID-COVID_eng.asp.

For direct impact on research, NSERC states:

Examples of other type of information that can be used to describe the impact include: types of research contributions that have been affected (e.g., data collection, publications, conference presentations, outreach, etc.), impacts on contributions to the training of highly qualified personnel (HQP) (e.g., impacts on internships, difficulties with recruitment, delays in graduation, etc.) and impacts on partnered research (loss of funds, loss of personnel, reduced access to sites, etc.).
Note: This is not an exhaustive list. There may be other items you wish to include to describe the impact.

When it comes to personal circumstances:

... stating the nature of the circumstances (e.g., medical, bereavement, family responsibilities, special, etc.) is sufficient. No further detail regarding these types of circumstances is expected. For example, no detail related to an individual or family member's illness should be included in the application. Stating that you were unable to work or worked at a reduced capacity during a specified period of time due to medical reasons is sufficient for the impact of the circumstances to be taken into consideration. It is equally important not to disclose personal circumstances affecting HQP.

Alternatively, SSHRC notes that, "health (and/or disability-related), administrative, family, cultural or community responsibilities, socio-economic context" are all valid conditions impacting research productivity. Each of these could be shaped by COVID-19 in various ways, such as childcare and home schooling, taking care of ill family members, the impact on teaching preparation and other professional responsibilities. SSHRC also distinguishes between "Career Interruptions," where you describe halts in research and "Special Circumstances," where you describe research slow-downs. COVID-19 can be used in either or both sections.

Useful Reading

- NSERC's Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on research: NEW guidelines for NSERC's community https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Policies-Politiques/COVID-COVID_eng.asp
- The Research Whisperer: <https://researchwhisperer.org/2020/11/03/talking-about-covid-19/>

Calculating Durations of Restrictions

If you require precise days for the duration of a specific restriction, please confirm your dates and calculate the duration as needed. Duration calculations are for guidance only and have used the following tools and principles:

- For full duration between dates see <https://www.timeanddate.com/date/duration.html>
- For counting working days between dates see https://www.timeanddate.com/date/working_days.html
- Working days do not equal class or teaching days. These will need to be calculated if required for any reason.
- Date calculations above are inclusive of the end dates.
- Totals where months and days are tallied treat a tallied 'month' as 30 days throughout (i.e. when one interruption has 14 days, another 9 days, and another 10 days, the calculations would treat these days as 1 month of 30 days & 3 days, rather than 33 days). All other months are as per the online calculator.

This document is in regards to the St. John's Campus; other campuses and regions in NL may have had other or additional interruptions.

Quick Summary

Date of calculation: Apr. 18, 2022

Interruption details	Dates	Total months	Total weeks	Total days	Total working days
Memorial faculty and staff worked remotely	Mar. 17, 2020 to Feb. 1, 2021; Feb. 10, 2021 to July 13, 2021; and Dec. 17, 2021 to Jan 24, 2022 (excluding 3 days of holiday)	16 months, 26 days	73 weeks	510	344
Memorial restrictions (of one sort or another) on research activities	Mar. 18, 2020 to July 13, 2021; and Dec. 17, 2021 to Feb 23, 2022	18 months & 3 days	78 weeks & 6 days	552	373
Memorial travel restrictions (of one sort or another)	(Approx.) Mar. 18 2020 to Oct. 29, 2021; and Dec. 29, 2021 to Feb. 23, 2022	21 months & 9 days	92 weeks & 4 days	650	439
Memorial libraries - no on-site access	March 18, 2020 to June 21, 2020; and February 10, 2021 to April 16, 2021	5 months & 13 days	23 weeks & 1 day	162	111
Memorial libraries - no physical document delivery	March 18, 2020 to January 31, 2021	10 months & 14 days	45 weeks & 5 days	320	216
COVID-19 impact within NL overall	(Approx.) Mar. 13 2020 to present	25 months & 6 days	109 weeks & 4 days	767	518
Newfoundland & Labrador English School Board,* K-9	Mar. 17, 2020 to June 26, 2020; Feb. 10, 2021 to Mar. 18, 2021; Jan. 4 to Jan. 24, 2022	5 months & 11 days	22 weeks & 5 days	159	110

Detailed List of Memorial University's COVID-19 Closures & Restrictions

St. John's Campus – Regular Work & On-Campus Teaching Restrictions

St. John's remote working (work from home) dates for all faculty and staff:

Total for all remote work interruptions:

- 16 months & 26 days / 73 weeks / 510 days / 344 working days
1. Mar. 17, 2020 to Feb. 1, 2021
 - 10 months & 15 days / 46 weeks / 321 days / 218 working days
 2. Feb. 10, 2021 to July 13, 2021
 - 5 months & 3 days / 22 weeks / 153 days / 103 working days

3. Dec. 17 2021, to Jan. 24, 2022 (excluding 3 days of holiday)
 - 1 month & 8 days / 5 weeks / 36 days / 23 working days

St. John's campus remote teaching (First Lecture to End of Examination Period inclusive) dates:

Totals for common remote teaching periods:

1. Winter 2020, Fall 2020, and Winter 2021
 - 7 months & 28 days / 34 weeks / 240 days / 167 working days
2. Winter 2020, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Winter 2021, and Spring 2021
 - 14 months & 8 days / 62 weeks / 434 days / 297 working days
3. Winter 2022
 - 3 weeks 2 days / 23 days / 16 working days

2020 Academic Year (Dates for St. John's HSS Programs)

1. Winter 2020: Mar. 17, 2020 to Apr. 21, 2020
 - 1 month & 5 days / c. 5 weeks / 36 days / 23 working days
2. Intersession 2020: May 11, 2020 to June 24, 2020
 - 1 month & 14 days / c. 6 weeks / 45 days / 31 working days
3. Spring Semester 2020: May 11, 2020 to Aug. 15, 2020
 - 3 months & 5 days / c. 14 weeks / 97 days / 65 working days
4. Summer Session 2020: June 29, 2020 to Aug. 12, 2020
 - 1 month & 15 days / c. 6 weeks / 45 days / 30 working days

2020-2021 Full Academic Year (Dates for St. John's HSS Programs)

1. Fall 2020: Sept. 9, 2020 to Dec. 18, 2020
 - 3 months & 10 days / c. 14 weeks / 101 days / 71 working days
2. Winter 2021: Jan. 11, 2021 to April 23, 2021
 - 3 months & 13 days / c. 15 weeks / 103 days / 73 working days
3. Intersession 2021: May 10, 2021 to June 23, 2021
 - 1 month & 14 days / c. 6 weeks / 45 days / 31 working days
4. Spring Semester 2021: May 10, 2021 to Aug. 14, 2021
 - 3 months & 5 days / c. 14 weeks / 97 days / 65 working days
5. Summer Session 2021: June 28, 2021 to Aug. 11, 2021
 - 1 month & 15 days / c. 6 weeks / 45 days / 30 working days

2021-2022 Full Academic Year (Dates for St. John's HSS Programs)

1. Winter 2022: Jan. 6, 2022 to Jan. 28, 2022
 - 3 weeks 2 days / 23 days / 16 working days

St. John's Campus Travel Restrictions

Total travel restrictions of one sort or another

- 21 months & 9 days / 92 weeks & 4 days / 650 days / 439 working days
- i. Mar. 17, 2020 to Oct. 29, 2021:
 - 19 months & 12 days / 84 weeks & 3 days / 592 days / 400 working days
- ii. Dec. 29, 2021 to Feb. 23, 2022:
 - 1 month & 26 days / 8 weeks & 1 day / 57 days / 39 working days

1. Newfoundland:

- Generally, travel restrictions follow Provincial Alert Levels and responsible travel within the province is permitted in Alert Level 3. For Memorial research activities, the institutional dates can be used for fieldwork.

- For travel restrictions, the following shifts were in place for Alert Level 4 or above:

- i. March 13, 2020 to June 7, 2020 (Initially Alert Level 5; May 11, 2020 went to Alert Level 4)
 - 2 months & 26 days / 12 weeks / 87 days / 57 working days
- ii. Feb. 11, 2021 to March 27, 2021. (Stay at Home Order for St. John's Metro from Feb 11, 2021; March 15, 2021 went to Alert Level)
 - 1 month & 17 days / 6 weeks / 45 days / 31 working days
- iii. Jan. 10, 2022 to Feb. 7, 2022 (Alert 4 for entire period)
 - 4 weeks & 1 day / 29 days / 21 working days

For Dec. 29, 2021 to Jan. 10, 2022, and from Feb. 7, 2022 to Feb. 16 2022 the entire province was at Alert Level 3. Travel was not prohibited within the province, however reasonable limitations on number of contacts and caution was advised. As of Feb. 16, 2022, the province no longer used Alert Levels

- i. Dec. 29, 2021 to Jan. 10, 2022
 - 1 week & 6 days / 13 days / 7 working days
- ii. Feb. 7, 2022 to Feb. 16 2022
 - 1 week & 3 days / 10 days / 8 working days

2. Within Canada:

- "The Atlantic Bubble" came into effect July 3, 2020, was suspended in NL on November 24, 2020, and entirely by November 26, 2020. Incomplete resumption in June 2021, due to various vaccination requirements, etc.

- For specific provinces, travel restrictions vary. The Government of Canada maintains a site with links to Provincial Government websites noting travel restrictions. Information may be focused on current restrictions, rather than historic. If you require historic restriction information, you may have to make a request. See <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/provinces>

- During Omicron travel was permitted to Newfoundland, but from Dec. 21, 2021 a 5 day isolation period was in place until Feb. 5, 2022. As of Feb. 28, 2022 there were no travel restrictions.

3. International:

- To come to Canada - still in place (see #1 dates), border closed to non-essential and foreign visitors as of March 18, 2020. For travel information from the Government of Canada, see <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid>. Information may be focused on current restrictions, rather than historic. If you require historic restriction information, you may have to make a request.

- For visits to other jurisdictions, find specific countries border closure timelines.

- All International travel for Memorial activities were resumed on Oct. 29, 2021. Due to the Omicron variant's rapid spread, the suspension was re-imposed from Dec. 17, 2021 to Feb. 5, 2022. As of Feb. 28, 2022 there were no travel restrictions.

St. John's Campus Field Work or Lab/Facilities Restrictions

Total field work or lab restrictions: Mar. 18, 2020 to Feb. 23, 2022

➤ 8 months & 3 days / 78 weeks & 6 days / 552 days / 373 working days

1. Complete shut down: Mar. 19, 2020 to May 22, 2020

- Could request special access after May 22, 2020
 - 2 months & 4 days / 9 weeks / 65 days / 44 working days
- 2. Restrictions: Feb. 12, 2021 to Mar. 30, 2021
 - Could do low risk field work, no face to face, follow travel restrictions, follow restrictions in place at destination
 - 1 month & 18 days / 6 weeks & 4 days / 46 days / 31 working days
- 3. Restrictions: Mar. 30, 2021 to July 13, 2021
 - Could do low risk field work within province, but face to face now permitted (with density restrictions) and there were slight changes to travel restrictions, follow restrictions in place at destination
 - As of July 13, have to follow provincial guidelines for safety but regular field and lab work allowed.
 - 3 months & 13 days / 15 weeks / 105 days / 69 working days
- 4. Restrictions: Dec. 17, 2021 to Feb. 23, 2022
 - Various modified restrictions for research activities within Memorial
 - 2 months & 7 days / 9 weeks & 6 days / 69 days / 47 working days

Library closures or restrictions, St. John's Campus

All Libraries

1. **Total no on-site access:**
 - 5 months & 13 days / 23 weeks & 1 day / 162 days / 111 working days
 - i. March 18, 2020 to June 21, 2020
 - 3 months & 4 days / 13 weeks & 5 days / 96 days / 65 working days
 - ii. February 10, 2021 to April 16, 2021
 - 2 months & 7 days / 9 weeks & 3 days / 66 days / 46 working days
2. **Total no access to restricted collections:**
 - 4 months & 10 days / 18 weeks & 4 days / 130 days / 88 working days
 - includes very limited provision for newly purchased items
 - no access to existing physical items until contact-less pick up of items and eventually appointments for stack access introduced
 - i. March 18, 2020 to June 21, 2020
 - 3 months & 4 days / 13 weeks & 5 days / 96 days / 65 working days
 - ii. February 10, 2021 to March 15, 2021 is
 - 1 months & 6 days / 4 weeks & 6 days / 34 days / 23 working days
3. **No document delivery including no scanning of items:** March 18, 2020 to June 21, 2020
 - 3 months & 4 days / 13 weeks & 5 days / 96 days / 65 working days
4. **No document delivery and no delivery of physical items but scanning available:** March 18, 2020 to January 31, 2021
 - 10 months & 14 days / 45 weeks & 5 days / 320 days / 216 working days

Archives, Centre for Newfoundland Studies, and Special Collections

1. **No access (includes no scanning of items)**
 - Total no access:**
 - 4 months & 10 days / 18 weeks & 4 days / 130 days / 88 working days
 - i. March 18, 2020 to June 21, 2020
 - 3 months & 4 days / 13 weeks & 5 days / 96 days / 65 working days
 - ii. February 10, 2021 to March 15, 2021

- 1 months & 6 days / 4 weeks & 6 days / 34 days / 23 working days
- 2. No On-Site Access
 - a. **Total for thesis-based graduate students and postdoctoral fellows:**
 - 4 months & 18 days / 19 weeks & 5 days / 138 days / 94 working days
 - i. March 18, 2020 to June 21, 2020
 - 3 months & 4 days / 13 weeks & 5 days / 96 days / 65 working days
 - ii. February 10, 2021 to March 23, 2021
 - 1 months & 14 days / 6 weeks / 42 days / 29 working days
 - b. **Total for Faculty:**
 - 5 months & 12 days / 23 weeks & 1 day / 162 days / 109 working days
 - i. March 18, 2020 to July 15, 2020 is
 - 3 months & 28 days / 17 weeks & 1 day / 120 days / 80 working days
 - ii. February 10, 2021 to March 23, 2021 is
 - 1 months & 14 days / 6 weeks / 42 days / 29 working days
 - c. **Total for honours students**
 - 7 months & 13 days / 32 weeks / 224 days / 151 working days
 - i. March 18, 2020 to September 13, 2020 is
 - 5 months & 29 days / 26 weeks / 182 days / 122 working days
 - ii. February 10, 2021 to March 23, 2021 is
 - 1 months & 14 days / 6 weeks / 42 days / 29 working days
 - d. **Total for retired faculty, staff and remaining students**
 - 10 months & 14 days / 45 weeks & 2 days / 317 days / 216 working days
 - i. March 18, 2020 to December 17, 2020
 - 9 months / 39 weeks & 2 days / 275 days / 187 working days
 - ii. February 10, 2021 to March 23, 2021 is
 - 1 month & 14 days / 6 weeks / 42 days / 29 working days

Other Non-Memorial Closures & Restrictions

Newfoundland & Labrador English School District

Shut down or learn remotely dates

- Total for K-9 all shut down or learn remotely:** 5 months & 11 days / 22 weeks & 5 days / 159 days / 110 working days
- Total for 10-12 shut down or learn remotely, plus blended model:** 8 months & 10 days / 35 weeks & 6 days / 251 days / 172 working days
- 1. K-12:
 - i. Mar. 17, 2020 to June 26, 2020
 - 3 months & 10 days / 14 weeks & 3 days / 101 days / 69 working days
 - ii. Jan. 4, 2022 to Jan. 25, 2022
 - 3 weeks & 1 day / 22 days / 16 working days
- 2. K-9:
 - i. Feb. 10, 2021 to Mar. 18, 2021; Dec. 17 to Jan 2022 (excluding holidays)
 - 1 month & 9 days / 5 weeks & 1 day / 36 days / 25 working days
- 3. Grades 10-12:
 - i. Feb. 10, 2021 to Mar. 18, 2021 and then blended model until June 17, 2021; Dec. 17 to Jan 2022 (excluding holidays)
 - 4 Months & 8 days / 18 weeks & 2 days / 128 days / 87 working days

Changes & Versions

Please report any errors or concerns to hssresearchgrants@mun.ca or hssresearchadmin@mun.ca.

- May 11, 2022: Full version – Layout revision, and final March 2022 dates
- Feb. 23, 2022: Full version – Post-Omicron dates
- Dec. 17, 2021: Full version – Re-imposed International Non-Essential Travel Ban; Travel Ban Dates updated
- Oct. 15, 2021: Full version – Added Library restrictions
- Oct. 1, 2021: Full version – No Library information
- Sept. 22, 2021: NSERC-Specific version
- Sept. 17, 2021: SSHRC-Specific version

References

Memorial

Office of the Vice President (Research)

- News Release Archive - <https://www.mun.ca/research/news.php?view=archive&type=news>

Office of the Registrar

- 2019-20 Calendar - https://www.mun.ca/regoff/calendar/2019_2020/sectionNo=GENINFO-0086
- 2020-21 Calendar - https://www.mun.ca/regoff/calendar/2020_2021/sectionNo=GENINFO-0086

Queen Elizabeth II

- <https://www.library.mun.ca/covid-19/>

Newfoundland & Labrador English School Board

- COVID-19 - <https://www.nlesd.ca/families/covid19.jsp>
- COVID-19 (2021) - <https://www.nlesd.ca/families/covid19-2021.jsp>