

Anonymous Graduate Student COVID-19 Testimonies. This page is updated daily.

1. Countless numerous deepening impacts on my academic progress and overall well-being

2. I won't have summer funding and will have to deplete my personal savings to stay in the Bay. I have nowhere else to go as my closest family is immuno-compromised. My research progress is delayed because my partners in my study community are not holding the meetings where I virtually share progress on my work. I am deeply anxious and scared.

3. A large part of my dissertation was supposed to be a survey that I was going to run this spring. I was about to hand it to the survey provider to run it, but now can't given the global climate. I study authoritarian attitudes in the United States, and asking individuals if presidents should be given more power in a time of crisis would produce skewed results and would obviously not be reflective of the environment in equilibrium. I was hoping to go on the job market this fall with that data, but as a result of not being able to run the survey for months, there is very little chance for me to go on the market this fall, meaning I will need a 6th year of funding because of things out of my control related to the coronavirus.

4. Fieldwork is disrupted

5. It has taken the biggest toll on me financially because I went to the east coast to be with my family during this time (and also to escape the hot bed of the virus in California). However, it is greatly distressing that I am still paying an enormous portion of my stipend in rent right now since I can not get my stuff out of my apartment in Stanford. Ideally, I would end my housing contract, but I don't know what would happen with all of my things. And, I don't want to lose priority when returning to campus (hopefully in the fall).

6. In an already dismal academic job market, many job searches are now being canceled or postponed because of the pandemic; graduate students like myself who are forced to graduate this June are very likely to be unemployed (and thus without healthcare as well as an income) after graduation.

7. My husband lost his job, so my grad stipend is our only income. I now have taken on about 10 hours/week in unanticipated care-related work for family members who are not able to leave their homes and about 10 hours/week related to applying for stimulus funds for my husband's lost job and our family business which had to shut down because the shelter-in-place order. I have been so worried about family members (and a friend who is currently hospitalized with COVID-19) that I haven't been able to focus on academia. The stress has exacerbated two medical conditions that I have (one of which is the basis for my OAE accommodations) which

has made me unable to work for several hours in the day.

8. Major career opportunities such as the ability to teach my own course and attend a prestigious conference were cancelled entirely. The teaching opportunities I lost represented a substantial portion of my income during the summer, when departmental funding is at its most limited.

9. I'm facing a hold of potentially 1 year on starting field work for my own research and for research with my advisor and coauthors, due to schools closing in Brazil at the beginning of their academic year.

I'm also on hold for campus housing change in status reassignment with my partner, with no expectation of moving, impacting us negatively in many ways (mentally, financially, increased chance of exposure to the virus from having multiple roommates, etc).

As an international student, I'm also facing uncertainty about my Visa status, not yet knowing how moving everything online affects my enrollment requirements. I'm also facing uncertainty about the means to return to my country if necessary for any reason. By following Stanford's initial policy recommendation of not leaving campus, I missed the chance to reunite with my family while flights were still operating regularly. Now traveling is becoming increasingly harder, with fewer options everyday and everywhere, domestically and internationally, if available at all.

10. Summer quarter is only time I can financially support my family of four by doing internships. My internship was rescinded due to financial crisis. Moreover, US residents are eligible for Trump's covid19 stimulus, which is \$1200 for an adult and \$500 for a child. Being international student I cannot get this stimulus for my family. All of that makes international graduate students with dependents highly vulnerable and extremely hard to survive in the current situation. No jobs, no support from government, high cost of living

11. It has definitely had an impact on my mental health. It's been pretty depressing to see how our government has handled the pandemic and how people will continue to suffer and die because of their negligence.

12. The burden of childcare has greatly slowed my progress in the recent weeks and with public schools staying closed until the 2020-2021 school year, this slow pace will continue for some months. The virus and its impacts will also prevent me from conducting dissertation research at American and international archives and collections this summer as anticipated. The longterm Covid-19 predictions suggest that I will not be able to resume my normal work schedule or research travel until the fall or later. With these delays I will need to secure at least one more year of funding to complete my dissertation. Additionally, given the financial impact of the virus, it is realistic to assume that there will be less funding available for 2021-2022 fellowships and employment opportunities in the field further compounding the challenges for successful completion and financial security going forward.

13. I am an international student and I really want to do a leave of absence as I'm unable to

continue research due to all the constraints that came with COVID-19 (e.g. no childcare) but I don't want to be kicked out of the country when my family (husband and baby) is still here. It's a struggle.

14. The pandemic will almost certainly extend my degree timeline by a full year. It has pushed back my qualifying exam, lab experiments, paper writing, conference attendance, and two workshops. This means another year of living in Stanford's expensive "subsidized" housing, and a year of potential funding uncertainty and financial strain on me and on my advisor. I hope Stanford listens to and provides for its vulnerable graduate student workers during this time, and the same goes for other Stanford workers, including contract workers.

15. I have had experience with power abuse that there is no way to report without it negatively impacting me. Contacting my department administrator or some other leader is too much of an unknown. I think about things like, are they trained to handle this properly? What exactly will happen to my PI? Will I get kicked out of housing like Stanford has threatened? My PI has expressed anxiety around grants running out without new data being produced to secure new funding. This has put tremendous pressure on trainees in the lab to somehow not let COVID-19 impact our progress when this is impossible. The University needs to provide relief to labs and students alike. Students are one of the lowest most vulnerable populations on campus, and we make Stanford's research activities possible. Grad students can not and should not have to shoulder the weight of the impact of this epidemic. Please extend our timelines, funding, and housing so that we do not have to work in unfair conditions and with unreasonable expectations.

16. If this pandemic costs us a billion dollars to secure the lives of the Stanford community, will it matter a decade from now? Serious question.

17. I could feel the stress to everybody worldwide by this pandemic. As a SOM staff, I am lucky to be fully protected. However, students and career beginners are not well supported. It's hard to get everyone covered but as long as we are able, we should definitely help our future workforce.

18. impacted my paper submission and the experiments that are required for the paper is halted.

19. I will not be able to stay on campus next year because I won't be able to have an income from teaching since the department is cutting costs. Will have to go back to my home country, will be cut off from the institutional and professional support here.

20. My fieldwork has been halted. I cannot recruit participants for my dissertation. My dissertation is going to be significantly delayed. I am wasting nearly two quarters of fellowship funding because of this. It will, likely, take me an additional year to finish graduate school. The department and university has committed to trying to find RA and TA assignments for an additional year of funding; however, the time commitments of an RA and TA assignment are wholly different than my fellowship funding that has been lost. I anticipate it taking me even

longer to finish if I am having to RA and TA rather having a fellowship.

21. It is difficult to find many of the academic resources I require for my research. In addition, I no longer expect to be able to find an academic job upon graduation.

22. It has not allowed me to access Green Library, whose books are so crucial for my research. On top of that, my academic advisor decided to resign from my committee --abruptly. He did not even take into consideration that we are all going through pretty stressful times. To be abandoned in this moment is especially inconsiderate. He even suggested that I should leave the country. My mental health has, accordingly, deteriorated (I suffer from chronic depression). Fortunately, I have been able to receive support from an external therapist. I wonder how I would have been able to survive if I only depended on CAPS. Stanford needs to take care of the mental and financial well-being of its students, especially now that power abuse in the advisor-advisee relationship becomes more evident than ever.

23. I would like for students who are currently residing in off campus housing to be able to stay in their current residences (and not forced to move) for an additional year. It is stressful to have to deal with the move on top of covid's impact on my health, my graduate school progress, and my finances.

24. As a humanities PhD student in my sixth year, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted my ability to finish my dissertation as well as to secure employment or funding for next year. I'm supposed to graduate this year, but I'm struggling. Several academic jobs I've applied to have cancelled or frozen their searches. Other teaching opportunities (at private high schools) have fallen through due to budget concerns resulting from the financial impact of the pandemic. It is difficult to continue to produce scholarship when I don't have access to a library, am back home helping my parents to get through the crisis, and know that once I graduate, I will be without health insurance and likely unemployed. It is difficult to continue a job search along with my dissertation given the impact on my mental health.

25. The pandemic has partially disrupted my academic progress and placed a gloom perspective on job opportunities after the completion of my degree. My family has lived for many years in financial distress and my plan is to help them financially once I finish my degree. I was meant to graduate later this year and given the current job market I'm hoping I can delay my graduation. The pandemic has caused me enormous stress due to all the uncertainty. I think signs of support, empathy, and solidarity from the University will help us all have a positive attitude to get past this extraordinary crisis.

26. I am a visiting student researcher at Stanford. One of the major advantages for me is to attend campus and faculty events at the university. However, during this pandemic, most events have been cancelled. Moreover, now all libraries and facilities are closed and there is no access. I am paying 1167 USD visiting researcher fees in addition to health, insurance, and accommodation fees. I would appreciate if the university partially waives visiting fees in the

coming months. Thank you for your help and support in advance.

27. I am now home with my two small children, which is significantly impacting my productivity. I am concerned about my ability to meet projected timelines. Most, though, I am concerned about my children's childcare teachers, who are in a more precarious position than I am in terms of salaries and benefits. Please consider supporting the child care staff who have served Stanford's youngest community members so that they may retain their health benefits and salaries through this crisis. We owe it to them for the sacrifices they have made to serve our children, and we will need them to be employed in order for so many parents at Stanford to return to work as soon as it is possible to return to on-campus work.

28. Can't begin dissertation research (require human subjects in lab), mental health making writing/publication difficult, visa concerns

29. I have cancelled a multi-month research stint in European archives that was to take place during the Spring Quarter. I am in my fifth and final year of guaranteed funding, so not being able to take advantage of this for an expensive but critical research trips makes the completion of my dissertation all the more uncertain and stressful.

30. Where to start? I am a humanities student working across other disciplines and using methods from the social sciences, which has won me praise and support in the form of grants and fellowships. Now, however, all my fieldwork is no longer possible. I work on social dance, which was one of the first things to go and will be one of the last things to come back: I specifically work on embodied experiences, touch, and desire, so simply pivoting to studies of digital or virtual dance classes does not adequately address my research questions. I was planning to move to New York with both an external archival grant and the CUNY Stanford Teaching Exchange in order to complete six months of fieldwork there this year, and I just don't know when that's going to happen considering the dire situation there.

While I value adaptability, I am insulted by my department's suggestion that we simply become "theoryheads" or drop all our previous work in order to scramble to complete on time. This suggests a sincere devaluing of graduate student work, especially in light of the tenure clock extension. Faculty encourage a deep-seated, multi-year commitment to our research questions yet now push us to be "a new generation of optimists" who can just conjure new research directions out of thin air in response to a terrifying global disaster. I don't understand. Similarly, community engagement has always been encouraged at this institution, which I love and admire, so blithely advising us to forget about that element of our research and work seems counterintuitive to the University's own aims and priorities. While I can see myself perhaps conducting interviews online, I would frankly rather drop out and find a job elsewhere than contort my research because I am being rushed out the door.

I am also a FLI QWOC international student with no family financial support. My (U.S. citizen) boyfriend broke up with me a few weeks ago, and I was forced to leave our shared apartment in

Oakland a few days before the shelter-in-place directive came into effect. I am living in one place with a friend, hoping her roommate doesn't come back from Asia, while registered as living at another address. I had to abandon my office chair, all my books are in boxes across the Bay Area, and there is just really no question of working right now, yet my international student status and lack of family nearby prevents me from taking a leave of absence. Thus I am running down my funding clock, able to conduct no fieldwork, producing little writing, and it looks increasingly unlikely that even 100% productivity right now would even secure me an academic job at the end of all this. When the off-campus subsidized housing ends, I will be stuck.

International students come to rely on the institution as a proxy for the nation. Where U.S. citizens can demand some kind of relief or aid from the federal government, we cannot (despite paying 14% of our stipends in taxes). We are desperate for rescue and Stanford is the only body that can provide us with that right now.

31. I find it absolutely crushing that my Division Chair is currently touting a positive, feel-good outlook in light of the global pandemic. We were told in a recent all-graduate student meeting with our Division Chair that we should both adjust our productivity metrics and prioritize our mental well-being. We were however offered absolutely no resources or guidance on how to do either. What does prioritizing our mental well-being look like if neither our Division nor our Dean offers substantive financial resources for mental health care? Often we are redirected to The Emergency Fund, where we are told that continuous for mental health costs cannot be accommodated. And what does adjusting our productivity metrics look like if we are meant to graduate in 5 years as expected? In the same meeting we were told first that deadlines would remain flexible during the Shelter-In-Place period and later that it would be expected that we would catch up on lost time once campus activities resume. When graduate students asked how we are meant to proceed with our research in order to lessen the impact on our progress toward degree completion given the closure of university libraries, the Chair's response was that we should consider submitting a list of the five most important books to our work to be purchased by the Division; the implication was that we should figure the rest out on our own. This is an absolute mockery of the contributions we as junior scholars make to our respective fields. The closure of the library has already affected my ability to meet my program's milestones. My advisor told me this week that my projected timeline to produce my first dissertation chapter will necessarily need to be revisited. Two conference panels where I hoped to present my forthcoming work have been cancelled. These represent missed opportunities for substantive feedback; I anticipate that many other such opportunities will in the long run significantly impact my professional advancement. I am at a loss on how my peers and I are meant to proceed with our work without guidance or substantial support from the university administration.

32. My kids are now home with me so I am having difficulty finding time to work. My 85 year old mother is recovering from knee surgery on her own in Colorado, and my concern for her often occupies my mind.

33. My parents-in-law were originally going to come to provide childcare for us this quarter, but

because of COVID-19 they were unable to come (due to increased risk of infection at the airport) and now we are caring for our infant by ourselves on top of "trying" to continue research and other school responsibilities. We are already so sleep deprived and stressed and it's been a real struggle trying to do both. I am so so worried about all my milestones and funding because I'm an upper year student and I'm supposed to graduate in a year or two (at most, and only IF there is more funding somehow) yet with the current COVID-19 situation it seems like it would be very hard to do any research for a while while juggling other responsibilities.. Please help us.

34. The pandemic has had a significant impact on my life and on my progress during Winter/Spring 2020. I am dealing with a number of personal stressors within my family- my mother's business has had to close and my father is dealing with health issues. This crisis has limited my ability to work and be productive these past few weeks, and taken its toll on my mental and emotional well being. In addition, I live in a studio apartment with my partner- we are limited by space and by our setup having to work remotely. Not having access to an office or to the lab has definitely had an impact on my efficiency and productivity.

35. Financial costs and disruption of research.

36. I am caring for a parent with dementia during this time and sharing work space with a partner who teaches online full-time, making it hard for me to maintain my former level of work.

37. Loss of summer employment

38. I have two children under the age of four. Stanford's child care programs enabled me time and space to conduct my research. Since these have all closed due to COVID19, I am critically hindered in my efforts to complete my work to the standard I had been able to meet prior.

39. I was supposed to graduate this summer. The conference I was planning to submit my peer-reviewed work has just been cancelled so I have to scramble to find a new venue to publish our results. This is going to result in significant delays. My advisor has been having a hard time finding funding for me. I don't know what is going to happen

40. COVID-19 has severely interrupted progress as a PhD candidate for me, upending my working conditions and making it difficult to even find a space to continue writing my dissertation. Additionally, this has been a significant hardship on my family, including our 10 month old child. Finally, our source of income for the summer, an internship, has disappeared as a result of COVID-19, and we are left wondering how we will pay our basic expenses throughout the summer.

41. COVID-19 has disrupted my progress to my PhD degree immensely. I have a toddler who would normally be in daycare, but now I am responsible for her full-time care, while also trying to make progress on my dissertation. Furthermore, several upcoming conferences and invited lectures, which are opportunities to network and establish myself as a scholar, have been

cancelled. Most importantly, I do not have guaranteed funding for next year -- my 7th year -- and was relying on teaching opportunities through Stanford in order to receive a stipend and health insurance. Those teaching opportunities now may not be available next year, which means that I may not be receiving a stipend or health insurance. With the prospect of a decimated job market, I worry too that even if I manage to finish my dissertation under these dire financial and psychological circumstances, I do not stand a chance at a job, whether in academia or outside of it. It is crucial for Stanford to offer one more additional year of funding to be able to even finish my PhD. Thank you.

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43. Stanford fellowship announcements for next year seem to have been delayed but information is not being shared with us, even when it has been requested. As a result, we cannot sufficiently plan for our future during this stressful time.

44. As composers/artists, a part of our milestones in getting the doctorate is having professional performances of our work within and outside of Stanford. As you well know, all public gatherings around the world (including concerts, exhibitions, performances) have been simply suspended and culture might be the last to get a green light to start presenting again. All of the project that I had got temporarily suspended and cancelled, including the performance of my dissertation piece. I went to Europe for a research project about a month ago, but it got cancelled last minute after I have already arrived there, and thus I got stranded in Croatia, the borders are closed on both sides and I don't know when I will be able to get back. On top of that, Zagreb has been hit by major earthquakes about 4 weeks ago and again today, which just adds another layer on top of the stress with COVID-19. The biggest issue for me as international student not receiving funding over summer is the fact that my partner still lives in the Stanford housing, so I cannot just cancel the flat and move stuff to storage. This means paying for exorbitantly high rates for housing (on top of living expenses) with no possibilities of earning money. All of my summer teaching gigs have been cancelled and there is a shortage of jobs in general. Not receiving funding this summer would mean spending all of my savings and probably borrowing money, while waiting for the autumn paychecks to start rolling in. It is needless to say that this in no way helps me focus on completing my dissertation and focusing on my studies. I

wholeheartedly support this initiative and hope that Stanford will lead the way of showing it can help its graduate students in times of such unprecedented crisis.

45. COVID-19 has made it nearly impossible to concentrate (to teach effectively or to continue writing), the future seems even more precarious than it was previously in the academic and nonacademic job market, accessing adequate mental health resources is difficult during the pandemic, and morale is low given the actions/inactions of government and the institutions that claim to protect their constituents. I am afraid for myself and for my friends, peers, and colleagues at this stage in their academic careers and lives because the futures we envisioned — however expansive or precise — are foreclosed to us now.

We are all people with responsibilities and families and far-flung networks. Every day I am terrified of losing people I love to COVID-19, to not being able to be there for them, and to the ripple effects of the pandemic across healthcare systems in the US and around the world. I have been financially precarious for years as a graduate student living in the Bay Area. Taking this risk seemed worthwhile because of the potentiality at the end of the degree. All of those possibilities have now evaporated.

46. In March, I received a verbal offer for an Asst. Prof position at a fantastic university. I then submitted my dissertation, and set up a defense date for May. That offer is now on hold, and may well be rescinded for good. Once I got word that this offer was coming, I of course stopped sending out postdoc and VAP applications; I now have gone from a confident prospect of a full R1 faculty career to quite possibly graduating with no job lined up, only to enter a nonexistent fall 2020 job market. Without another year of funding, I will not only have to move out of my Stanford-provided housing, I will have to find and begin a non-academic career, and probably abandon my plans to join academia for good. Support through the next year from the university would sustain me through the crisis, and set me up to apply when the job market reopens on the other side.

47. Like many students in my department, my PhD work was 100% lab based, and the closure of labs has obviously disrupted the progress of my research. Even more significantly, the impact of this crisis on my mental health has been severe. My family has been impacted significantly -- one of my parents is currently battling COVID, and the other is an emergency room nurse working on the front lines in one of the biggest hotspots in the US. The worry that I feel for them and my own feelings of anxiety and isolation make it difficult to focus on my degree progress at this point in time. My life has been completely upended, and I just want to feel like I can focus on taking care of myself and my mental health right now, without worrying about how this is all going to impact my funding and my academics.

48. Delayed graduation, and increased stress due to needing to help out family (financially and emotionally)

49. Delayed graduation which means risk of no funding / housing...

50. As a first year, I haven't been able to find a professor to conduct research with for my qualifying exams.

51. I am currently suffering from COVID19 and COVID pneumonia (which I contracted after leaving campus). I am not able to really get any work done right now, in part because I'm so sick but also because I'm experimental and can't do any lab work right now. I'm trying to leave computational analyses but it's very slow. I will probably be set back about a year from my expected graduation date, which is fine as long as I know I can be paid through that time and that my lab can handle that without any trouble.

52. I am an international student very concerned about how my degree will now progress and related visa issues. My dissertation fieldwork abruptly came to an end which was very upsetting. I was working with preschool children everyday for a year and I wasn't even able to say goodbye. I was "ahead of schedule" to finish my PhD on time but this now looks unlikely. I am also very anxious about the job market which looks to be even more dire than it is already. I am concerned that what I have been working towards for the past four years is all about to just go up in smoke.

53. I elected to take a sixth year to finish my dissertation study. Although my department does not guarantee sixth year funding, I have had ample work opportunities (hourly/RA/TA) to cover tuition and living expenses. Much of this work is no longer available. In particular, all of my summer work opportunities have disappeared and my department does not offer summer funding. Many K-12 teacher programs have been postponed (loss of hourly work and RAships). I am worried that much of my TA work that was informally planned for the summer and pre-fall will no longer be available in the online format. Although this work was discussed, it was not officially offered to me. Thus, it will not even register as a loss of work, but I was depending on it for my summer living expenses. I fear that some of these factors will continue to have residual effects into the fall.

In terms of progress on my dissertation, I was supposed to collect data in my final case study classroom this spring. In order to finish my study as originally planned, I would collect this data next spring (needs to be the end of the school year to be comparable with other data sets) and need a 7th year to finish the dissertation. I will either have to convince my advisors that two cases is enough or have an incomparable data set from the fall in order to finish next year as I had hoped.

In addition, I've struggled to maintain the same level of progress on my academic work due to interpersonal circumstances. I've been caring for my boyfriend, who is sick (potentially COVID, but doesn't qualify for the limited available tests) and worrying about health compromised family in states that are not implementing shelter-in-place policies.

Finally, in terms of long term job prospects, all of the professional conferences I was planning to

attend in the late winter/early spring were cancelled. I have lost my opportunities to network to find jobs. Many universities have enacted hiring freezes, so the prospects for the academic job market next year look utterly dismal.

It is truly a bleak time to be a graduate student. Although I recognize that we are in a much better position than many others (some funding/work still in place, some housing support), my situation has fundamentally changed in the last month.

54. I am seeing two major personal impacts. 1) I have a 10 month old who is now in my care full time with daycare closed indefinitely. I now have only 2 - 4 hours/ day in which I am able to work (or exercise or anything else). I am lucky to have a fellowship that means I do not have to TA or RA currently, but I will not be able to defend my dissertation and graduate this Spring because I simply won't be able to finish it in time, muchless am I able to stay on top of other work such as a grant proposal due tomorrow, article reviews for a conference, etc. 2) As a 5th year on the verge of potentially graduating and waiting to hear from an academic job I am watching as more and more Universities post hiring freezes. If I do not get a job this year it seems likely there will be very very slim pickings next year, and by the time jobs slowly return a huge glut of PhDs with no jobs flooding an already crowded market. I have been 100% committed to a job in academia since the start. But it looks like I may end up needed to return to my prior career - a deep disappointment after so many years invested in preparing for a future as a professor. As the parent of a small child, I simply cannot wait around for years and years for the job market to recover when it likely never completely will!

55. I had summer funding cancelled because the summer program I have already prepared to teach was cancelled

56. I am expecting to graduate this year, but am not able to progress forward due to the hiring freeze. I need financial support/housing to continue with my academic career.

57. The pandemic has interrupted and dramatically changed my move. I am living in unexpectedly expensive housing as a consequence. However I am fine and would like to thank the administrators in r&d and housing who have worked with me to address you issues.

58. The outbreak is causing a lot of stress to my daily life and a parent. My husband is a postdoc so we both work full-time, and now care for our 3-year old full-time. I'm lucky if I can get a 4-hour stretch of work. I was planning to finish in the summer but I don't think I'll be able to now. I'm also worried about housing because I'm supposed to leave in August, and I want to be able to stay in it beyond that to finish my PhD. I don't want the added stress of looking for a temporary place while wrapping up my PhD, which is stressful to say the least.

59. I can't work. My apt isn't setup as a work facility. There are three young children here. I use headphones but that only works for so long

60. My wife lost 100% of her income as a freelance musician. We were already tight financially before the pandemic, now every day is getting more stressful, especially since we're expecting our first baby for this Summer. This situation greatly impacts my research and more generally our mental health.

61. I can't work anymore and it's been very difficult to stop thinking for a minute about the present and the future of the world and my own country. It's been difficult even to find a meaning for my research. My academic ambitions seem pretty silly under the current circumstances. I feel guilty for being able to stay home and retain my salary while so many people are still out there or losing salaries and jobs. I fear for the indigenous peoples, the prison population, the favelas. The pandemic exacerbates everything that is wrong in the world - the inequalities, the violences, the far-right. It's scary.

62. I've become sick, and going through this illness has disrupted my dissertation writing, funding applications I needed to be working on, my plans to present at conferences that would build my CV, and more.

63. Prevents wet lab experiments for current project.

64. I am unable to carry out fieldwork which is necessary for my dissertation research. I am not sure how I will complete my dissertation given the uncertainty surrounding international travel right now. I am also scared about the toll that the massive economic recession will have on my future job prospects.

65. I happened to be visiting my parents in Chicago when shelter-in-place orders were issued. I am stuck here indefinitely with only the items I brought for a 3-day weekend. I have had to purchase books to make even minor progress on my work, and I've had very little opportunity to do anything related to my dissertation. I am paying for rent, for internet fees, for off-campus student fees (frankly, I do not know what those are), ***and healthcare fees***, without access to any of the materials that allow me to do my job as a graduate student. I am virtually stranded without healthcare as I can't afford to pay for out-of-network services - even though I am paying for cardinal care. I am supposed to be moving to Rome in the late summer to begin dissertation research; this is now very much up in the air. I am basically forced to tread water for months, and I don't yet even know how severely this will impact the timeline and quality of my dissertation.

66. Libraries are frozen, access to archives suspended, access to professors and university resources significantly slowed.

67. I am in my fifth year right now and was supposed to be on the job market this fall. All my advisors and my department chair agree that there won't be any jobs this fall, which means that I need another year of funding to complete my dissertation. As an international student, it is already very difficult for me to secure funding, as many fellowships (esp. off-campus) are

restricted to US citizens. But of course COVID-19 is making it even more challenging to find funding.

68. My family members and I have already been drowning in medical (& misc) debt and now we have lost most of our sources of income (informal) and are struggling to stay afloat and continue accessing medical care. My aunt has also contracted the virus and we fear for her life and the health of my grandparents (whom she was recently in contact with).

69. I am a Brazilian student that has full tuition and expenses covered by a scholarship, so I imagine I am a privileged person in campus, who does not have to worry about financial issues. Even though I have this privilege, COVID-19 is dramatically changing my life's work plans and career perspectives; imagine for those who are facing the chance of losing the opportunity to fully access Stanford's benefits (educational and professional) during their time here. It is literally losing time and money, exactly what they are investing to be here. Stanford is one of the wealthiest educational institutions in the world. They are definitely able to aid all student's financial burden through the crisis and should feel proud to do so.

70. Dealing with the epidemic has all but entirely drained my already meager month-to-month funds. It has entirely disrupted my dissertation research plans for this year (2020), and has made my work generally very difficult as I have no access to libraries or archives.

71. I have family members in ICU in Italy. This crisis has affected every single part of my existence.

72. I had to cancel my 6-month dissertation research trip and return to the US only 3 weeks after it started due to the pandemic. Since my research involves large gatherings of people, I will also need to find a completely new dissertation topic, since I have no clue how long these conditions will last. Mentally, I have hit a wall, managing to eke out less and less productive time each day in the face of the huge problem ahead of me of starting from scratch on my dissertation. Today I only managed to be productive for 30 minutes (working on responding to comments on a conference paper; the deadline is fixed and so I have no choice but to try to make progress) before having to give up. Hearing of what I have gone through, my advisor has asked me to take 2 weeks off to focus on my mental health, to be able to approach things without being burned out. Hopefully, I will be able to think of a new dissertation topic soon after resuming work, or else I will fall behind expected progress on my degree. Financially it has been difficult as well -- my dissertation research trip was in another country, where the breaking of leases is not allowed. Therefore, I am responsible for continuing to pay rent for an apartment I cannot access in another country, while I try to find adequate housing in the US. It is very difficult to afford all this and this takes its own toll on my mental health.

73. I have lost access to all the secure data on which my dissertation is based, meaning I cannot work on my research.

74. I have been unable to start my new PhD project since I'm at home. This will significantly delay my research progress. The isolation induced by the pandemic has led me to seek an emotional support animal, which is difficult to get approval for during this crisis.

75. While I am trying to remotely support (my family is scared I may bring COVID to them if I go home) an elderly parent who is ill--we don't know whether with COVID or not yet--I'm also trying to prep for my oral exam. While I'm paying rent for my Stanford housing, I'm currently stranded with a friend in another part of the country, honestly scared for my own well-being to get on a flight back. I can not access library books, so I've spent over \$700 out of my own pocket to buy the books I need to prep for this exam so that I don't miss this milestone. While I'm crossing my fingers on finances, I'm terrified that I may see no monies coming in this summer because of the shuttering of all summer programs and classes, which offset the fact that my limited summer stipend covers, essentially, my rent. This has caused incredible anxiety and fear. How am I supposed to concentrate on my research when I'm scared I won't be able to feed myself this summer?

76. I had to evacuate the country in which I was doing fieldwork, and I have thus lost out on the final 3 months of my ethnographic research. I have no idea when I'll be able to return to finish this project - or if it'll even be possible to work with my identified communities anymore, given how long COVID-19 will likely be a global health crisis.

77. My situation is more stable than that of many of my colleagues, but I want to provide my own testimony related to the importance of extending timelines and support. I'm a historian who works primarily with archival materials, and I had planned the bulk of my archive trips for this year for March and April. All of them have now been cancelled, and I have no idea when I'll be able to reschedule. Stanford's libraries are closed indefinitely, meaning that the other materials I work with -- books and papers that are part of Stanford's excellent collection but are impossible to otherwise purchase and are not anywhere digitized -- are also now inaccessible. I had hoped to finish my dissertation by the end of the summer, but without access to these resources, it's impossible to make much progress, and I now expect I won't be able to defend and graduate until 2021. Many of my colleagues are in the same boat, unable to access the unique materials their research depends on through no fault of their own. In these conditions, even leaving aside all the other psychological and logistical stresses of the pandemic, it seems ludicrous to expect timely progress to completion, and the university should take steps to ensure expanded flexibility in timelines and additional guaranteed financial support. Not to do so would compel many graduate students, some of whom are otherwise on the verge of completion, to throw away years of research, effectively punishing them for an act of god.

78. It significantly delayed a major part of my dissertation, which involves annotation by undergrad RAs in a designated office on campus.

79. Some issues: Family members just got very sick and access to needed treatment is complicated by covid, more difficult because we can't travel to visit, living with partner who got a

pay cut, conferences cancelled, experiments needed for publication can't be done, difficulty working from home. Summer lab teaching job is going to be either remote or cancelled.

Overall I think this petition makes excellent and very reasonable suggestions and I hope the university considers it fully. These policies would make a big difference.

80. My wife and I were going to reunite, after she went to see her grandparents, her grandmother is facing health challenges. Borders closures prevented us. Now we have extra expenses as it is harder being apart, to cope with living expenses. We were already in poor financial shape as she cannot work in the US, nor can she work in her country as all businesses are closed.

81. The research institution of Stanford, such that it is, has an obligation recognize and understand that expecting regular and remote work intervals from its faculty, its graduate students, and its undergraduates is not only unreasonable but harmful. Cascading effects of what can only be described as collective grief and trauma have detrimental effects on one's ability to focus on complicated tasks. This might be considered common sense by many, but out of decent respect to the expertise of those who might read this, here are some sources:

Kubler-Ross, E., & Kessler, D. (2014). On grief and grieving: Finding the meaning of grief through the five stages of loss. Simon and Schuster.

- also see: <https://hbr.org/2020/03/that-discomfort-youre-feeling-is-grief>

Sirois, F., & Pychyl, T. (2013). Procrastination and the priority of short-term mood regulation: Consequences for future self. *Social and personality psychology compass*, 7(2), 115-127.

Retrieved from:

<http://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/91793/1/Compass%20Paper%20revision%20FINAL.pdf>

- also see:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/25/smarter-living/why-you-procrastinate-it-has-nothing-to-do-with-self-control.html>

I am no exception to this condition, am aware of its consequences, and yet I find myself pushing to work ineffectively every day. Some compassionate response on the part of Stanford with regard to its academic employees, laid off service workers, and its students must be provided.

82. Incredibly disruptive—and not of the positive sort.

83. I am a single student and the COVID crisis has caused me a great deal of financial strain; I cannot imagine what it must be causing for my colleagues with dependents to support. My stipend doesn't cover my financial needs so I rely on part-time contracting work to make ends meet. The company I contract for just cut hourly rates by 50%. I am also entering the final years of my PhD career and as I get closer to the end, I worry more about whether I will be able to get funding. I worked for several years before coming to graduate school so I have some

emergency funds that I knew I could depend on if I didn't receive any funding for a term or two. The market crash has tanked those funds so my emergency funds are in short supply. Again, I know I am in a much better situation financially than many of my colleagues. If I am this worried for financial reasons about the future, how must my colleagues with families to care for be feeling? Or colleagues who went to grad school right after college without any savings?

84. COVID-19 travel restrictions have prevented me from going on my first field season, which I had been preparing for for the past 4 months (I am a field biologist). I anticipate that either setting my degree progress back by a year (as I will have to wait until this time next year to return, if possible) or causing me to entirely change the focus of my research.

85. I have had to move countries very quickly, with only three days notice while I was preparing for my qualifying exams which start in two weeks. I do not have access to library resources at a critical time in my degree and have lost a significant amount of time and focus which is detriment to my performance in my exams. Over the summer I was supposed to begin 12 months of international fieldwork - it is now unclear whether any of that will be possible. At the very least I am faced with having to drop one of my field sites for which the timing is critical, and that will compromise the quality of my dissertation and probably my employability.

86. The pandemic has created a lot of unexpected expenses for me in trying to set up a home office. It has also taken a psychological toll in that I worked so hard to create a division between my work and home life, but working from home has nullified that barriers than helped me be productive at work and more or less at ease at home. I am stranded in the bay, unable to see my family because they are more vulnerable to the virus than myself. And on top of all that my research timelines are scrambled. My research partners are unable to proceed with our project together so I find myself unable to do fieldwork, without a research partner that I counted on for support for work to be done abroad, and while all of these things change I have to learn to teach on zoom, apply for funding, and take care of my family from afar.

87. I had secured an internship for the summer at ETS and was expecting some of the work I did there to become part of my dissertation. That internship has since been cancelled, both removing that research opportunity and removing my source of summer income.

88. When Covid-19 started getting worse in CA, I fled my housing insecure situation and sought refuge with an old couple in Europe who were willing to house me although we are not related. However, the Covid-19 situation here isn't good either, and I have been a part of euthanasia discussions for if they contract Covid-19. I am also concerned about what I might do if I fall ill with Covid-19, as I would feel very uncomfortable continuing to stay and jeopardizing their health. This is taking a significant toll on my mental health.

89. halted my post-doc search

90. I am part of population at risk (bad asthma, moderate to severe last year, but now it falls

under "moderately under control") so this crisis has been intensely personal in terms of anxiety and (irrational, but not uncalled for) fear. Since I am not an anxious person in general, dealing with this type of anxiety has been a new challenge to me. It has disrupted my work because I can't concentrate for as long as I used to. The emotional and interpersonal impacts I would say, aside from the issue of asthma, seems in line with everyone else's: severe disruption to my routine, not seeing friends, feeling powerless to help family in different countries (which include Brazil, the UK, Mexico and Singapore), and feeling the need to connect with them more frequently for my peace of mind. I am now taking it one day at a time and hope to regain some of my rhythm in the future... Thanks for doing this, everyone.

91. I cannot go back to China and have to pay for the high housing fee.

92. I can't realize my summer and (possibly) autumn plans: going abroad to do fieldwork and language study. Long self-isolation proves emotionally disrupting.

93. My spouse has a compromised immune system and a chronic respiratory illness, which means that I have to be even more cautious about leaving our apartment than I otherwise would be: we have groceries delivered and left outside the door, etc. This extreme degree of confinement combined with anxiety about my spouse's health has made it extremely difficult for me--a very active person--to focus on dissertation work and preparation for teaching. No amount of schedule creation and productivity apps can really mitigate the fact that I am working at our dinner table without access to essential research and teaching resources. I have had to substantially and rapidly reimagine the content of the course I am teaching this quarter because the planned readings were not available digitally (I have personally funded the purchase of several books in hardcopy at a time when our small amount of savings has become even more precious). Both my spouse and I will be on the academic job market next year, so we are rushing to finish our dissertations while we are still funded with the knowledge that the market is dramatically contracting. As international students requiring visa sponsorship, attempting to build a career through numerous back-to-back one-year appointments is not available to us, which makes the collapse of permanent appointments even more devastating. It feels like we're trapped in a tunnel with no light at the end, just the knowledge that the university will evict us in one year's time. Given this situation, it is especially difficult to engage positively in online meetings where faculty urge us to see "the silver lining" and describe shelter-in-place as a "social experiment". I also find it highly inappropriate that I have been asked to do additional work tasks "in the time saved by not commuting" (I live on campus). This kind of insensitivity to the circumstances of graduate students has greatly added to the anxiety I feel about my future at Stanford.

94. I'm unable to access libraries for research while also dealing with significant financial stress as the primary wage earner in my family.

95. Due to the virus, Stanford Housing will not be renewing my housing contract for the summer. This means I have to face the difficult task of looking for a place to live in during the shelter in

place (all house visits are cancelled, for obvious reasons). I am an international student and travel back home to my country is not possible because airports there are closed. I do not have friends or relatives in the United States who I can stay with.

96. I am no longer able to access lab equipment and space so my degree progress will at least be delayed by 6 months. I am an international student from a low income background and have anxiety about what will happen when I hit 5 years and no longer have funding. My family and partner is in a different country and I am experiencing great mental and emotional hardship being away. I am in a precarious situation where I am being forced to move from off-campus subsidized housing to on-campus housing in September. This will not only bring a likely 50-80% increasing in rent, but has also left me in a position where I am unsure how to proceed with moving apartments and when I will be able to see my loved ones again.

97. I am unable to pursue preliminary archival research abroad during the summer after my first year, which means I have to wait longer to gather materials for potential dissertation topics, potentially lengthening my time to degree.

98. I feel like I am working out of box--anywhere that I can work to escape my dear children's sharp eyes. I can't really get to work until the children go to sleep and by then I'm exhausted, the lighting is bad, and I feel claustrophobic as all the resources that I used to keep at my office are now piled up around me. Our house is just not set up for my husband to work and myself to work. We need to move but we keep wondering if things will change, if we'll have access to the library which I sorely need, or if I can have access to a printer so that I can print out chapters of my diss to edit. I didn't think that my office, the department copier and the speed of internet and the library would be so crucial to my work but they are. It's frustrating to see empty apartments and know that we can't use one as an office. Why not?

99. As a grad student with a family, I've had to homeschool my child which has significantly impacted my research productivity and writing of the dissertation. My partner works on the frontlines to help hospitals meet their staffing needs. I feel truly overwhelmed and hope the university will support me through this difficult time.

100. I suffer from a chronic, degenerative neurological condition, which produces unpredictable disabilities, such as loss of eyesight, mobility impairment, etc. Stress is the primary trigger of relapses with this condition. The increased financial, professional, interpersonal, and mental stress the COVID-19 pandemic is causing is exacerbating my condition. I have experienced several secondary symptoms since the beginning of this crisis, which are indicators that an imminent relapse is likely. I implore Stanford to meet our demands before the pandemic worsens the difficulties and challenges we are facing as graduate students.

101. The COVID pandemic has made it more difficult to focus, and has pushed back the timeline on when I can begin projects for my PhD.

102. I am now working remotely. My only source of income is my stipend.

103. My plan was to find an academic job this upcoming academic year. Yet, it is no longer certain whether this is a good strategy. There are three main reasons. First, many universities will most likely not hire new faculty. Second, the preparation for the job search is weaker than usual: We cannot meet with external faculty who come to Stanford to give talks to practice pitching our research projects. Neither can we present our work and network in conferences over the summer. Finally, some of us had to accept TA- or RA-ships because external fellowships were not provided as promised or because summer internships fell through. This means that we have less time to push our own research towards the finish line.

104. It is very unknown right now how I will proceed. My discipline is about "being there." I am alone in an apartment half way through my fieldwork period. I presume I will need to extend my time in the field, but I don't know what this will mean for funding and degree progress. It feels too soon to know the timeline in order to plan around it.

105. The impact has been profound, because of new demands on me and my wife to help family members and friends in need. I anticipate this to continue for a while. This must take priority over research, which means I cannot make much progress on my dissertation, especially without access to physical libraries which were both my working place and are integral to my research process (physical access to books for targeted browsing, access to books and documents that are not digitized). Just as Stanford has done the right thing by extending the tenure clock for junior faculty, I strongly urge Stanford to continue showing moral leadership in this time of crisis by extending guaranteed funding for all currently enrolled PhD students by a year. This is the only way I can see to mitigate the difficulties of the job market crisis and widespread disruption of degree progress.

Thank you very much, university administrators, for the essential work you are doing for all of us in this difficult time. I applaud the pay cuts that top administrators are taking to their salaries. I would like to put this out there for consideration, not as an actual proposal, but as a fact that strongly suggests there are many areas where Stanford could cutback spending in order to afford supporting PhD student for another year. To take just two people who earn astronomical salaries from Stanford, if David Shaw and Frank Hanley each settled for a one year pay cut of 50% , so that each of them made only 1.5 million dollars next year, the money saved by the university on their salaries alone could support ~100 PhD students for an additional year at 30k.

106. I want to preface this by saying that I feel very fortunate to have been able to maintain some form of income. Most of my work is experimental so like many others my progress towards my dissertation is halted. I have side computational projects I can work on full-time from home, but I have had a great deal of difficulty adapting to working from home. For one, my advisor is overcompensating for our inability to do lab work and is piling on lots of peripheral work so we stay busy, and this level of work feels greater than normal work loads. Secondly, with no separation between work and home, I am having difficulty remaining mentally and

physically healthy. I find it difficult to manage a sustainable lifestyle without leaving home and with work looming more so than normal. I feel my mental health deteriorating.

107. I do not have access to my laboratory experiments and will not have the summer programs that we're going to aid in my research progress. I am afraid my graduation date will be delayed significantly and my funding will run out. My husband was laid off and our supplemental income is reduced because of the economic impacts on the hospitality industry. Our childcare situation has been disrupted and caring for children is another full time job. I am also teaching an undergraduate science course that has to be transitioned to fully online. All these sudden disruptions and changes to our lives are monetarily and emotionally incredibly distressing. We really need Stanford to step up and help us. I know that the economy has hurt the university endowment, but there are real families suffering day to day that could really use some reassurance and financial support!! Stanford please be a forward thinking progressive leader through this crisis!

108. Last year, my husband left me and I had an abortion. As someone who has for a long time struggled with mental health issues, I am working incredibly hard right now to protect my mental and physical health so I can support my community and my family. Financial pressures add to the growing difficulty of this task: from housing stress, to checking account anxiety, to concern about the impacts to my future funding and employment prospects—dealing with the potential financial consequences of this pandemic comes at the expense of the time and energy I have to dedicate myself to my research at optimum and preferred levels. Please help: I really care about what I am working on and have already sacrificed so much for it.

109. Personally for me the impact has been minimal and I feel very lucky for that right now. But as a late stage grad student it looks like the job market ahead will be completely destroyed if it happens at all. The university is providing support to its junior faculty, which is great, but what about the students who won't be able to find jobs?

110. Covid has significantly impacted my ability to perform research necessary for my PhD dissertation. Specifically not being able to run experiments in the lab with human participants has been hugely detrimental to progress being made to my dissertation and disrupted the initial timeline for graduation. The dire prospects for jobs in both academia and industry have also significant repercussions for those of us approaching the job market in the coming years and Stanford should support its current graduate students as much as it can to ameliorate the current conditions. Lastly, many employees outside of academia are able to file for unemployment during this time. There is at this time no similar recourse for graduate students without guaranteed summer funding. We will have virtually no prospects to find adequate employment during this time and therefore will be subject to an enormous amount of financial stress. I implore Stanford to significantly rethink its graduate student policies.

111. For students whose legal status in the country is already complicated, this situation has served to exacerbate every vulnerability we have. We lack healthcare, we will not be getting

stimulus checks even though we pay taxes because we are not recognized by the government as people, we are now at more risk of not only being stopped while getting groceries during a shelter-in-place but that a simple detention can turn into a family-tearing deportation. We did not have access to stability as it was, let alone as it is. Having to worry about a pandemic that, by putting our health at risk, further puts our safety and ability to remain alive in a country that already does everything to keep resources away from us is exhausting and depressing. When we fear hospitals for reasons that do not even have to do with health, when we fear bills that our savings will soon not be able to pay, when we want to do school but have to worry about knowing that now it is not just difficult to find ways to make money but dangerous and impossible at the moment, it becomes extremely hard to perform through a rain that has become a storm we cannot see through without help to fight a system we cannot take on by ourselves.

112. Ozgul Ozdemir

113. My department relies on and expects students to self-fund their summer quarter through research-related grants tied to fieldwork. However, with travel and in-field research restricted, this is not possible--leaving students like me without time to put alternative plans/jobs in place for a summer that is quickly approaching and will still most likely involve various quarantine measures. Stanford is my primary home; with elderly (80+) parents, one of whom is currently fighting cancer and therefore a triple risk for Covid-19, my partner and I have no other place to go this summer to save rent, etc. even if travel were allowed again. In my case, summer funding at or near a regular quarter would allow us to survive financially into the fall.

Second, given the crashing academic job market, while I may still be able to finish my dissertation if I find appropriate funding, there will likely be little to no hiring worldwide next year--thus increasing my time to graduation through no fault of my own. Like many near-graduation students are facing, am effectively facing an extra year to degree. This outcome is not just a hardship for me, but in aggregate also has a serious impact on Stanford's reputation and metrics. However, adding an extra year of fellowship support would be key not only to finish, but with enough time and energy to launch a career in these extraordinary circumstances.

114. I'm an international student and it is very distressing to be away from friends and family back home right now. My husband is my dependent as he is here on an F2 visa. His crappy health insurance announced they would no longer cover COVID concerns, so we had to buy new health insurance for him - a new big expense for us. It would make a huge difference if the university (1) offered dependents free health care (2) rent freeze or subsidies on housing.

115. no lab access. worried about graduation timeline.

116. At first, it was just a challenge to work from home with both my rural internet connection not being very reliable to use remote servers or make voice/video calls and my mind constantly preoccupied worrying about what this pandemic means for the future well-being of myself, my

loved ones and the world as a whole plus what my immediate risks were as an immuno-compromised individual. Now, as I have had the misfortune to get sick somehow, it has been a challenge to get work done simply because I am having such a hard time getting out of bed from how exhausted I am, let alone even looking at a computer screen with how much my head pounds most days probably from stress and from coughing so much. I worry a lot, to the point where I can't sleep well most nights, that I will not be able to finish my PhD by the end of this summer but I am still trying to work as much as possible to reach that goal and not let my emotional/physical state impede my productivity too much

117. My dissertation requires a great deal of survey work, none of which can be conducted right now because any data collected during this period will have serious external validity issues. As a result, this is slowed my timeline both to apply for grants to support my dissertation research and to complete my dissertation. Additionally, the stress and anxiety of this time period have made it more difficult to get work done. I have multiple family members who are high-risk, and must frequently check in with them to make sure they are protecting themselves and that they have everything they need, including groceries and medical supplies. This takes a large amount of effort, both in terms of time and emotional burden, which has also slowed progress on research.

118. I am an international grad student. Everything listed in point #7 of the full document applies to me! I am worried! I want to stay on campus over the summer and not be forced to travel back home to maintain visa status.

119. Because K-12 schools have shut down, I had to pause my ethnographic fieldwork. This means that data collection towards my dissertation has stalled and I am now uncertain about my PhD completion timeline (especially given that we do not know when K-12 schools will reopen). I am especially concerned about this because I do not yet have funding secured beyond this summer quarter - I do not have funding for next academic year or the year(s?) that will be needed after that in order to finish. (Testimony added 6/4/2020 to include: I am feel completely abandoned by the university and by my department - they are hesitant to offer those of us without future funding secured any support or reassurances. The university needs to respond better, and to equip departments to be able to support their students. How am I supposed to continue my work without funding? While at the same time my research is hugely delayed because of the pause to in-person fieldwork.)

120. I was forced to leave and complete the quarter and my research sharing a room with my mom as there was an issue with my Stanford housing that could not be fixed under shelter in place. My work is also lab work, so I am rapidly falling behind deadlines to complete my graduate work on time. I am nervous about my funding lasting and my funding options-- moving suddenly has caused a lot of financial strain.

121. My father was just laid off, and it is likely I will be using my graduate stipend to support my parents' expenses.

I am living off campus, but am afraid to cancel my housing for spring because it is possible that reentering the lottery (instead of renewing) will result in an increase in rent when I return to campus.

122. Due to COVID-19, my dissertation data collection has been pushed back an entire academic year, which in turn has pushed my degree completion. This raises concerns for me in terms of funding, guaranteed housing and will also create a more competitive and tough job market in the coming years.

123. Many of my classmates are very stressed out about the job market due to so many universities freezing hiring, and I am trying to help them deal with their stress in a healthy way. This pandemic has clearly made maintaining mental health even more difficult for PhD students, and it was already very difficult to begin with.

124. Not only does the threat of getting the virus cause great anxiety but the threat of financial catastrophe if just one of my parents were to get laid off from their work. As a first-year, first-generation, low-income student, the financial crisis that is ensuing from the pandemic has already demanded I use my stipend to help cover a portion of our necessary expenses. In case of a lay-off, this would make my stipend a primary source of income for my family. The financial demands outlined in this petition, in regards to summer funding, an additional year of funding, and rent will ensure that students in similar positions to mine can both find ways to continue to do our research and academic work as well as care for our families, which depend on us for survival. Questions I am asking myself are: When next quarter starts, will the rent prices at/near Stanford make it impossible for me to cover rent and help pay for my family's expenses? Will my stipend be enough to help provide food, pay our mortgage, and other necessary expense as the pandemic continues? Many families may also be of mixed status and so unemployment for these families would be incrementally difficult under these circumstances and require much more time and resourcefulness to mediate.

125. My wife is pregnant and our baby is due at the end of May, this pandemic has completely destroyed all of our birth planning - from classes to medical visits and after birth support - and put us in the position where we will have to do much more of the process on our own, which is both scary and very time consuming.

126. It should be known that as it stands Stanford's health insurance, which graduate students are expected to be on, is completely inadequate in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. Students who were forced by the pandemic to leave campus find themselves in the predicament of receiving limited to no coverage out of state by local doctors, but being unable to receive telemedicine support from Stanford doctors due to stipulations that medicine cannot be practiced across state lines. The university should be proactive in compensating students for any medical charges they incur that are not covered by Stanford health insurance and this should not be limited to the Emergency fund \$ threshold.

127. My funding is running out in August and I am currently on the academic job market. Searches are being cancelled left and right due to the economic impacts and It is unclear whether I will be able to get a job before August or not, and if I do, whether I will be able to move by then. I am also an international student, so my status depends on having a job and if I don't get a funding extension and I don't get a job in the next few months, I would be forced to leave the country.

128. Monday through SATURDAY my work and teaching preparation is disrupted from loud and constant construction noises outside of my window in EV (McFarland building). Like all of us, I have no other place to work, and I cannot understate how psychologically stressful it is to not be able to hear myself think over the noise - hours of noise! - in an apartment I can now rarely leave. I cannot conduct my research or my teaching responsibilities sufficiently, because these circumstances have taken away normal resources like library, lab, and department access. I also incapable of taking care of myself, my family and friends. I despair that I do not have the freedom to either moderate or avoid things out of my control, like the construction work outside of my window. And I have other concerns, like all of us, which go far beyond Stanford's campus; in my case, family members who need financial help because they cannot work right now, and the stresses of my own divorce.

129. Even before this crisis hit, finances have been a severe limit on Stanford's accessibility to prospective graduate students. As part of the student visit day team in my department, I have heard that the cost of housing is very high on the list of concerns, and for many the price of EVGR is out of the question unless they work part time through at least their MS degree. Some will likely be unable to attend at all because of the cost of housing here compared to the rest of the country where some of our peer institutions are located.

With the economy set for a dramatic turn for the worse, Stanford is going to have to make hard decisions about finances, and I STRONGLY CAUTION them to consider the impact on graduate student diversity and quality. If nothing is done to support those in need, Stanford graduate education will become an exclusive enterprise for those that can afford it. That is not socially responsible, and will damage the quality of work done at Stanford and in academia for many years if not decades to come.

Please, consider the quality and accessibility of graduate education, even if it means cutting the number of graduate students to ensure equity for those that can attend in these lean years. It is paramount for the health of this institution to value the inclusion of all regardless of socio-economic or immigrant status.

130. I am now uncertain about the job market this year which is causing me anxiety about my forthcoming year

131. I have moved across the country since I only have two weeks left of coursework to

complete and will be able to do so remotely. When we work entirely remotely it is not worth the enormous rent to live on campus or even in California. The rent and moving is particularly onerous for graduate students with families like me. However working from my extended family's house is also quite difficult in the absence of daycare and adequate work conditions. Stanford knows the difficulties we face, I hope it will act with the generosity and principle it asks of its graduates.

132. I've been worrying about if COVID-19 will affect my applications for next-year fellowships.

133. Yes

134. I flew back to India to be with my family as soon as India announced locking down its borders. I wanted to be with my 70 year old father who has recently recovered from a cardiac arrest and is in the high risk category, should he get infected with COVID-19. Unfortunately, I did not have the time to clear my apartment or sublet it before I left as I flew out under duress within hours of booking my travel during the exam week. As a result, I am paying rent (~3000 USD even though my family is in India, without clarity on when we will be allowed to fly back to the campus). I would really appreciate it if I could get some rent relief during this time.

135. The situation has raised considerable uncertainty around my ability to pay the massive rent for graduate housing on campus over the summer quarter, and my ability to go back home and travel back to the States as an international student. This not only puts my visa status in jeopardy, but is currently also affecting my mental and financial stability and potentially putting my professional ability at stake to engage in full time research toward the completion of my academic requirements and degree at Stanford

136. COVID-19 is just something else indeed. I don't even know where to start.

137. I won't be able to begin my dissertation research on-time, and I can't finish studying for my Oral Examination. I will need an extra year to finish my degree.

138. COVID-19 has affected all of us and put tremendous strain on our working routines, emotional and physical well being, but it does so in different ways. From my colleagues who are single or do not have children, I hear about the psychological strain of the isolation and the difficulty at staying productive when the world around us seems to be crumbling, but at the same time, I've heard from some that this is an opportunity to concentrate on academic work, reading and writing. My own experience could hardly be more different. I live on campus with my two kids and my wife, who is teaching in a high school in Palo Alto. In the last three weeks, we've been sheltering at home, homeschooling our kids, trying to keep them healthy, happy and, when possible, learning. My wife has been trying to keep up with her full time teaching load (4 classes, in addition to meetings and student advising, all digital, of course), and I have been trying to sneak in some dissertation writing between 5-7 am and in the short breaks I have during the day tried to prepare for a course that I will be teaching this spring. Our little campus

bedroom became the HQ of increasingly complicated operation, where we take shifts zooming, having meetings, teaching, printing homeschooling materials, desperately tried to write and sometimes trying to keep in touch with our families abroad. Next week, I will begin teaching as well. I can hardly imagine how it will look like, how everything can work.

All of this has taken a massive toll on my dissertation research. While I manage to find an hour or two a day to write, it is clearly not enough, and most of all, I have absolutely no chance of deep concentration, or almost any concentration for that matter to develop ideas and read. While my advisor has been supportive, I am concerned by the little progress I've had and what it means for when I can finish my dissertation. I am now three weeks behind my schedule, and normalcy is nowhere in sight.

139. As a PhD students who are supposed to take quals next year and whose work relies on bench work and thus severely disrupted by COVID-19, I feel very stressed and hope the qual dates of both this year and next year could be postponed accordingly.

140. Cannot find Professors to sign as my reading committee

141. (please keep anonymous) COVID 19 has been an incredible burden on my family, causing my parents to potentially lose their small business that they have kept running for over 15 years. I may have to be the main source of financial support for my parents.

142. It has forced me to cancel attendance to conferences and other networking activities.

143. My stipend has become the only income in my household. Im experiencing crippling levels of anxiety, unable to sleep properly, having a hard time focusing as I re assess what the future might hold for me and my family.

144. My partner has lost his job as a result of the crisis and so my stipend has to support us both until further notice. I've had to spend extra resources ensuring that my mom, who is immuno-compromised, is safe. Not being able to travel for summer fieldwork leaves me at a significant disadvantage in developing my proposal for next year and staying on track with the timeline outlined by our department. It's hard to focus on class work while the stress of the unknown future weighs on me and my family.