**THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD: COVID-19 IMPACT FORM**

This form is not compulsory but is intended to be a helpful note to examiners. You may submit this form alongside (not in) your thesis. The purpose of the form is to detail how your thesis has been impacted by the Covid-19 disruption.

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| **STUDENT’S DETAILS** | |
| Name:  Jasmine Roha Wakefield | Registration Number:  190182836 |
| Department:  School of Bioscience | Faculty:  Faculty of Science |
| **Please provide a brief summary of the work you were planning to complete before covid-19 restrictions were implemented (max 300 words)** | |
| I was planning on a PhD investigating the effects of extreme event damage in arctic ecosystems. This would have included 2/3 arctic field seasons in Svalbard and Norway/Sweden. My research topic would have solely focussed on these geographic areas and the investigation of how microbial carbon cycling and ecosystem function is changed in the damaged landscapes. | |
| **Please provide a summary of plans for specific studies you were intending to conduct in the future (see note 1) (max 300 words)** | |
| Due to multiple lockdowns and covid restrictions, I was unable to attend fieldwork abroad. To start with we thought this may only impact one year of fieldwork so I conducted some UK based research to make use of the extra time (Chapter 3 and 4), as field seasons were conducted in summer. I also conducted a full literature review of the existing arctic research and wrote a 40 page theoretical framework on microbial carbon cycling in arctic extreme event damaged ecosystems during this time (not included in the thesis).  After the second failed arctic fieldwork season, it was decided I should change the focus of my PhD as it was unlikely I would have time to conduct research abroad. I made use of a long-term CO₂ FACE experiment my supervisor had set-up locally to the university. I used techniques, such as amplicon sequencing, that would have been used in the arctic research.  My thesis therefore has three varying topics as a result but broadly fits together by assessing how climate change is affecting the microbial cycling of carbon in upland and boreal ecosystems. | |
| **Where relevant, please provide details of changes to your personal circumstances (see note 2) (max 150 words)** | |
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| **If your thesis includes Covid-related research, please include a brief statement of how it relates to your overall research aims (see note 3) (max 150 words)** | |
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| **Please provide details of any previous funded extension, tuition-free extension or non-medical Covid-related leave of absence approved since March 2020** | |
| I was extremely lucky to receive a 6 month funding extension as my PhD was strongly impacted by Covid. This gave me extra funding to continue research into the last 6 month of my PhD. | |

**Note 1.** This information could form a basis for discussion at the viva examination and give Examiners additional means to assess the volume and standard of the work completed. Detailed information could be included in a future work section in the thesis itself.

**Note 2.** For example, ill health or additional caring responsibilities. additional difficulty related to an underlying disability, returned to clinical service, or has worked in a voluntary capacity for Covid-related research. These data could contextualise the judgement made by Examiners as to the most appropriate outcome.

**Note 3.** If in doubt, consult with your supervisor and Departmental PGR Lead.