

## UC Santa Barbara guidance for Graduate Students and Postdocs returning to research

The UC Santa Barbara Office of Research is committed to an equitable, accountable, and healthy research environment for everyone involved in the research enterprise. UC Santa Barbara's [Research Ramp-up plan](#) includes graduate, and some categories of undergraduate researchers in labs and in the field as we proceed through various stages. Below are some FAQs regarding safety and other concerns pertaining to students and postdocs as we continue to ramp up research.

### FAQs:

#### **Who should Graduate students and Postdocs contact with questions or concerns about returning to campus for research?**

General information regarding the research ramp up can be found on the [Office of Research website](#). Principal Investigators (PI) are required to share a copy of their approved Research Operational Plan with all research personnel in their lab/research space, including students. Any safety concerns can be reported to the student's PI or supervisor.

Graduate students and postdocs who have questions or concerns about returning to campus for research should be able to raise those questions or concerns without fear of retaliation. To do so, any of the following steps options may be utilized:

- Address your question or concern(s) about the research ramp-up to your PI or supervisor.
- Contact your departmental graduate student advisor and/or department chair to discuss the concern and determine whether an appropriate solution can be found. For questions about COVID19- related accommodations, please see these resources: [UC Santa Barbara Graduate Division FAQs on COVID-19 Impacts and Campus Services](#). Postdocs requesting an accommodation due to their own health condition may contact: [The Human Resources Workplace Accommodations unit](#).
- Should the issue not be resolved or you are not comfortable using options 1 or 2, you or the equity advisor can bring the concern to the attention of Ryan Sims, Associate Director and Academic Counselor in the Graduate Division (ryan.sims@graddiv.UC Santa Barbara.edu, (805) 893-2068). Depending on the situation, he may choose to involve the graduate associate deans or graduate dean. Please note: Ryan Sims is not a confidential resource. Students wanting to maintain confidentiality about their concerns should discuss them with the Office of the Ombuds.
- If the academic case manager and/or graduate deans determine that additional review is needed, they may refer the case to the Vice Chancellor for Research, Joe Incandela.

At any point in the process, you may contact the [Office of the Ombuds](#) for a confidential consultation. The Ombuds are also available as impartial, independent mediators to facilitate conversations, such as between you and your peers, or between you and your advisor or PI.

Graduate students and postdocs should familiarize themselves with the range of [resources](#) available for their support. Postdoctoral scholars can also reach out to their bargaining unit for concerns regarding their contract.

**Who should Graduate Students and Postdocs contact if they have concerns about compliance with health & safety mitigation measures in my research laboratory?**

You have the right to report any health and safety concern through the proper channels, and UC Santa Barbara takes all of these reports very seriously. Begin by speaking with your PI or supervisor about your concerns. If you observe that appropriate action is not taken, take your concerns directly to the department chair who is **obligated** to follow up with the PI and report to the dean.

The Office of Environment, Health & Safety is also available to support you, if you feel it necessary. Please send your concerns to the EH&S central phone line at (805) 893-7534 or via this [form](#). Anonymous reports may be made to the Whistleblower Hotline: (805) 893-4080 or [universityofcalifornia.edu/hotline](http://universityofcalifornia.edu/hotline).