The national lockdown as a result of COVID-19 has had significant impact on research activities nationally. Feedback received from stakeholders over the last few weeks indicate impact on the uptake of funds and student nominations for this year. The feedback flows largely from the number of requests GMSA received (and continue to receive) to consider the deferment/adjustment/carry-forward of funds from 2020 to 2021. Guided by guidelines on Carry Forwards and Funding Instruments, the following have been decided for the 2020 funding year.

1. **Funding Carried Forward from 2019 to 2020**: This funding will not be cancelled in June 2020, but an extension is granted for the use of funding until end of October 2020. All unspent funding will be cancelled thereafter.

2. **Freestanding & grantholder-linked student funding**:
   a. For all local students. If they do not take up the awards by the extended deadline of 12 June 2020, the grant/award will be cancelled unless a motivation is submitted for take up of the grant in the second semester of 2020.
   b. For all international students (including TWAS). If they do not take up the awards by 12 June 2020, the grant/award will be cancelled.
   c. Automatic deferments to the 2021 academic year will not be allowed.
   d. All students who cannot take up their awards this year, will be advised to reapply this year so that they may be considered for funding in 2021.

3. **nGAP**: No Carry Forward of the grant will be allowed as researchers are given the option to take up the grant in 2020 or 2021.

4. **Thuthuka and BAAP**: These funding instruments will follow the standard Carry Forward process as per the Carry Forward Guidelines and budget motivation process.

5. **Freestanding Postdoctoral support**: Unspent funds may not be carried forward from one funding year to the next for active grantholders as per the Carry Forward Guidelines. All grants should be cancelled if not taken up by the end of June 2020, unless a motivation is submitted for the Fellow to take up the grant in the second semester.
6. **Research Grant Support**: All research grant funding will remain available for utilisation by the grantholders throughout the year. All unspent funds at the end of the year, will follow the normal Carry Forward process.

7. **Incentive Funding for Rated Researchers**: Unspent funds will not be carried forward from one funding year to the next as per the Carry Forward Guidelines.

8. **International and Mobility Funding**: All grants remain available unless researchers request cancellation. These funding instruments follow the standard Carry Forward process as per the Carry Forward Guidelines.

9. **Research Infrastructure Support**: All grants remain available unless researchers request cancellation. The standard Carry Forward process, as per the Carry Forward Guidelines, will apply.

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