

Dear members,

As the union representing graduate workers on campus, we are actively working to make sure that the important safety precautions the university is taking for the current COVID-19 epidemic do not override the rights and protections owed to us as workers. It is normal for the burden of social and natural disasters to fall on the working class, unless we collectively fight back.

We are organizing together with undergraduate students, faculty, and other workers on campus to push the university to fulfill its responsibilities for the entire community. The situation is developing rapidly, and therefore we will be regularly updating a google doc¹ with the latest information, on topics such as housing, research impacts, lost conference funding, financial distress, visa issues, etc.

You are likely receiving many emails currently from various sources on the topic of the current COVID-19 epidemic, but below are a few things we would like to highlight:

- NYU has promised to provide paid sick leave for individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 or are in self-quarantine, neither of which will draw on paid sick days that our union contract guarantees. More on this from the university here².
- NYU has committed to maintaining pay for all graduate student workers for the typical number of hours they work a week. If you are not receiving your pay, please contact us (gsoc@2110uaw.org). More on this from the university here³.

**WE FIGHT
FOR ALL
OF US**



GSOC-UAW LOCAL 2110
MAKING A BETTER NYU SINCE 1998
The Union for Graduate Employees at New York University

We would also like to urge graduate workers to log any extra hours they work during this period of rapid transition. If you are being asked to work extra hours as part of the response, log them -- that is, record for what activities and how many hours you are spending beyond the hours in your appointment letter in a spreadsheet with date, start and end times. We will be fighting to make sure everyone gets paid for all the extra hours worked. We have included some examples below:

- Hourly workers (RAs, office assistants, etc.) have been asked to telework through the end of the spring semester. If their job is unable to be performed remotely, their supervisors should be approving their normal hours in any event. **If hourly workers have to do new training in order to continue their jobs, they should be logging those hours as well.**
- The university has not indicated how TAs will be compensated for any extra work, only that their pay will continue as usual since they will remain teaching remotely. **For now, GSOC is asking all TAs to make note of all hours spent training for ZOOM or any other extra hours worked throughout the transition to online instruction, along with any technological resources purchased to assist remote learning.**

If you feel like you are being put in harm's way in your workplace, please let us know.

Housing is also being maintained for all grads who live in Stuyvesant Town or Washington Square Village, but we have heard reports that those graduate workers who are staying in other housing at the university are being told to vacate. We strongly oppose the manner in which NYU is closing the residence halls, and will be releasing a more detailed response to this announcement in the coming days. Get in touch with us if you are losing housing.

Finally, there are many networks of mutual aid among fellow workers that are currently developing. Here are some resources that might be useful to you, your neighbors, or friends:

- Mutual aid networks around NYC⁴
- Coronavirus Resource Kit⁵
- If you want to help NYU undergrads currently under financial pressure, here is a document with a list of people who want help⁶. Please share this form⁷ with your students if you can so that they may add their names to the list of those seeking help.
- For people setting up childcare as a group, the childcare co-op calculator⁸ helps figure out schedules etc.

In Solidarity,
GSOC Communications Committee