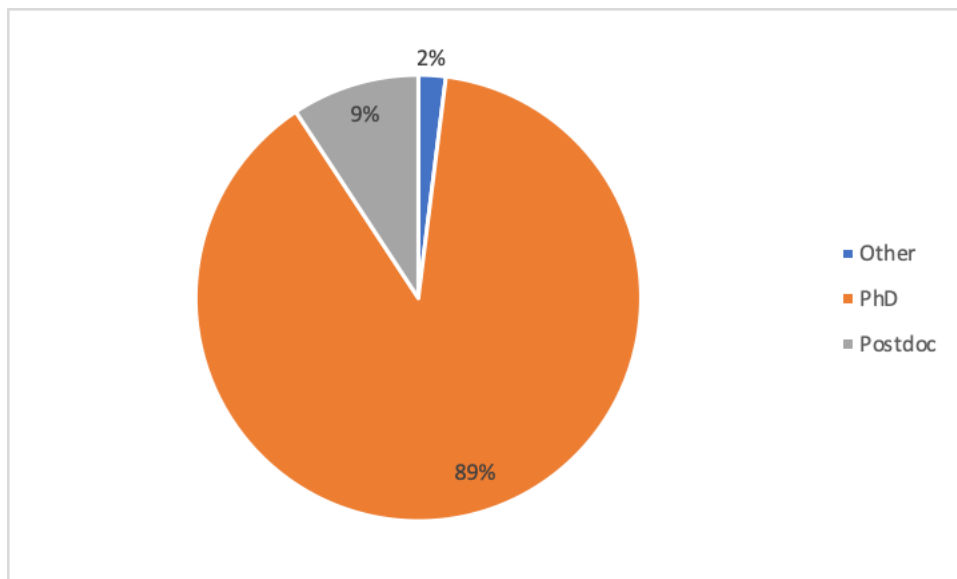


Results for NTNU (n=151)

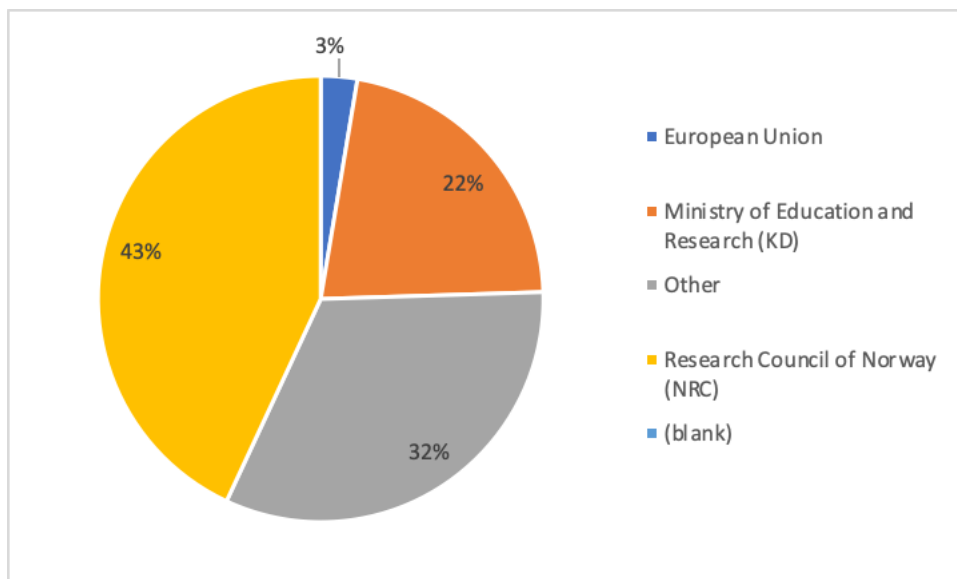
151 responses collected until 11 September.

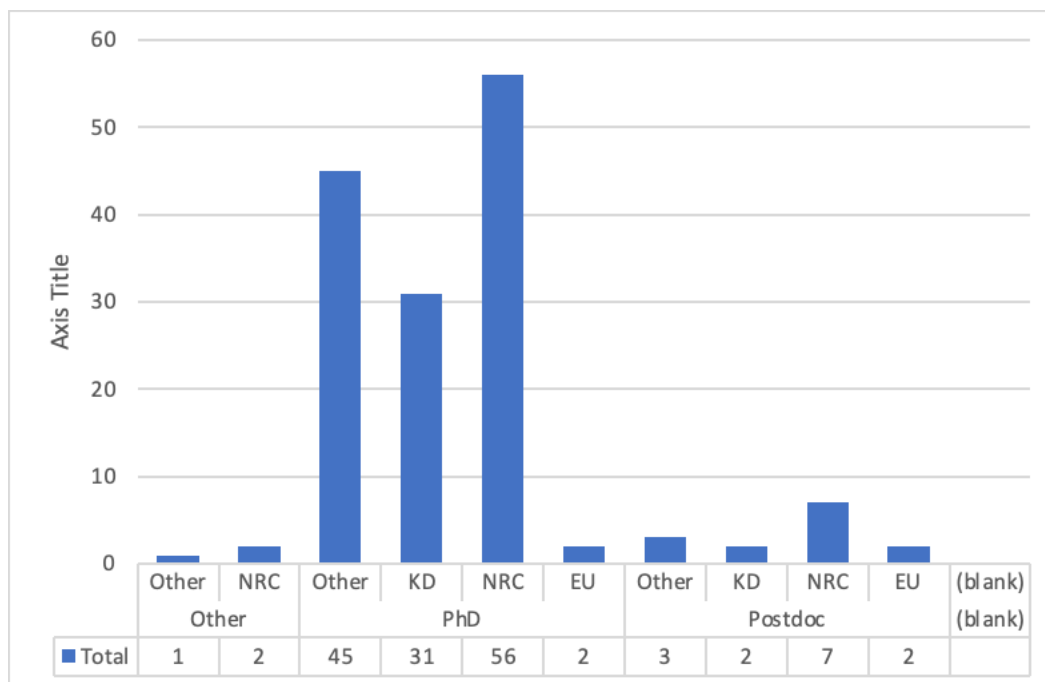
Contract

Which temporary research position do you hold?



What is the funding source of your research position?

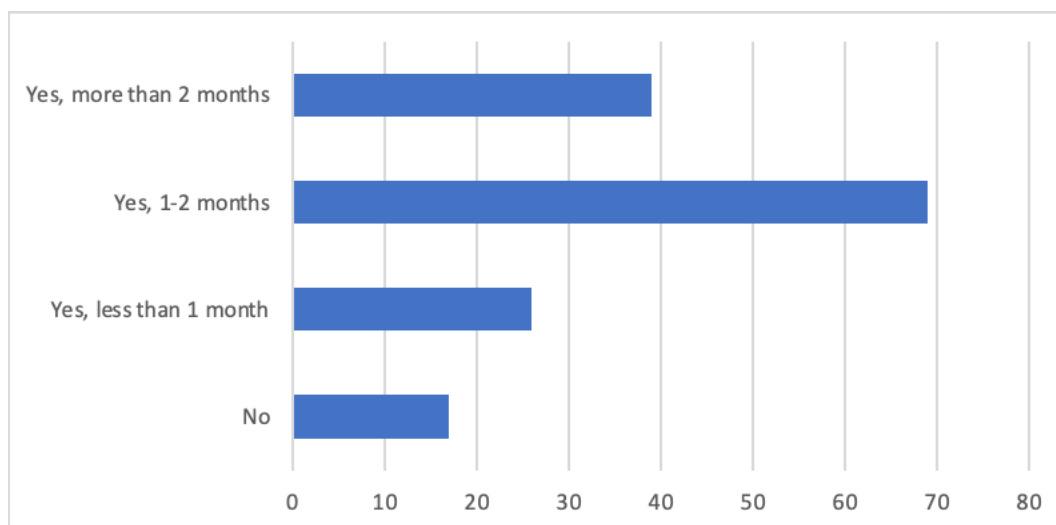




Project delays due to COVID-19

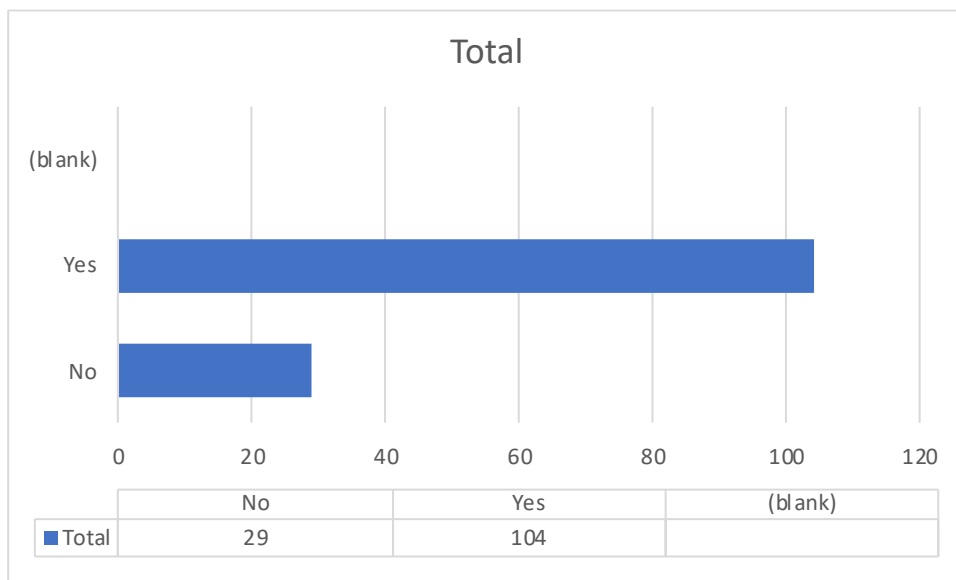
Have you suffered delays in your research due to COVID-19? (n=151)

134/151 (89%) of respondents have suffered delays in their project as a result of COVID-19.



Do you think you need to receive a contract extension to make up for this delay? (n=134)

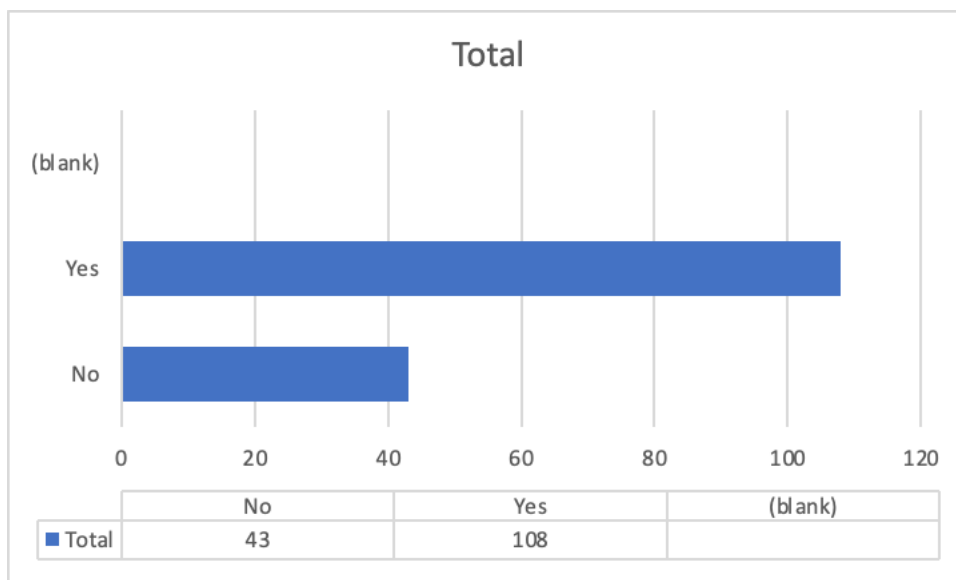
104/134 (78%) of those who suffered delays, say they will need an extension to make up for the delay.



Information about COVID-19 related contract extensions

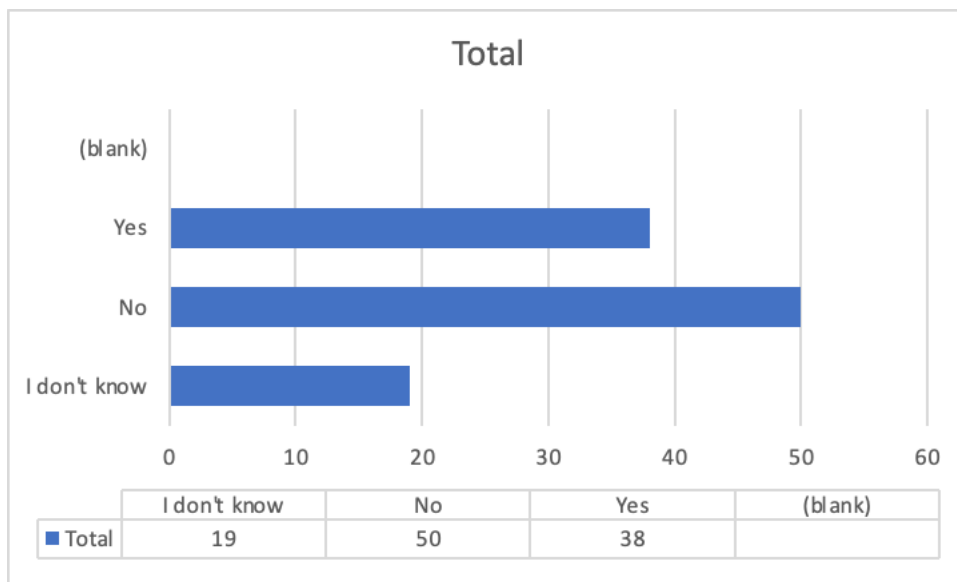
Has your institution provided information about a possible contract extension? (n=151)

108/151 (72%) of respondents says their university has provided information about possible contract extensions. This is equally distributed among those who need an extension and those who don't.



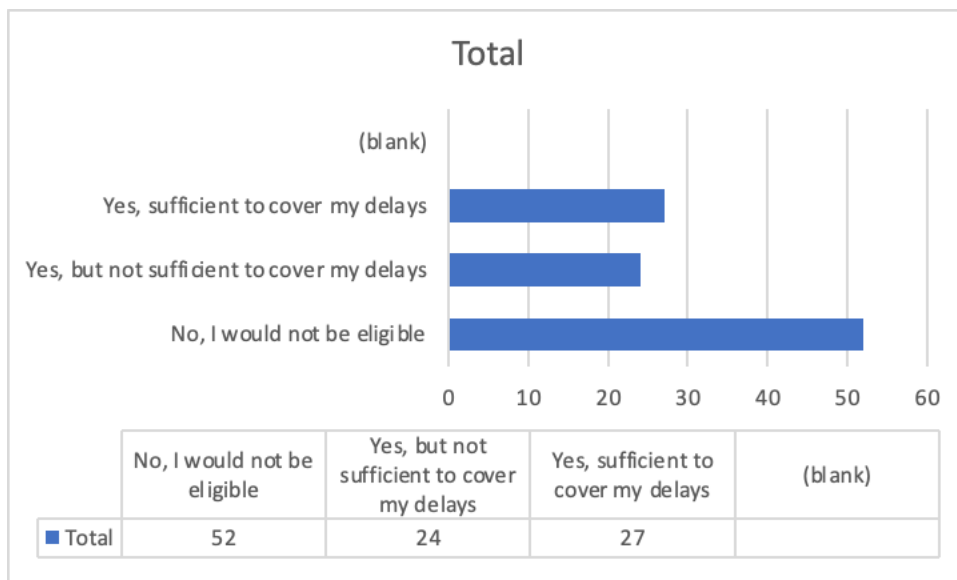
Did you feel this information was clear enough for you to apply? (n=108)

Only 38/108 (35%) felt the information provided was clear enough to submit an application.



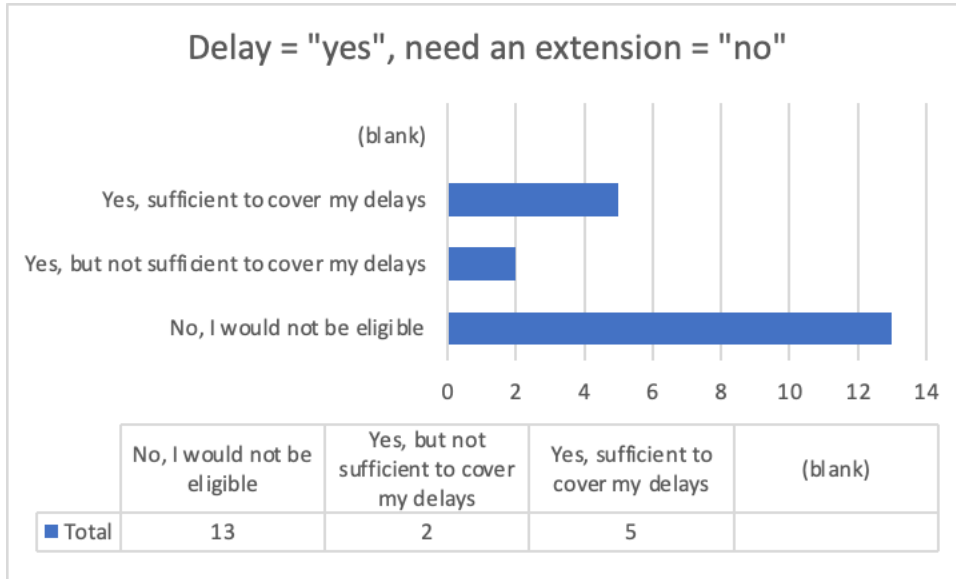
Based on your institutional guidelines, do you think you would be eligible for an extension? (n=108)

*Less than half (48%) of those who were familiar with the guidelines judged they would be eligible for an extension. This varies from 65% of those who are experiencing delays, but **will not** need an extension, to 39% of those who are experiencing delays and **will** need an extension.*

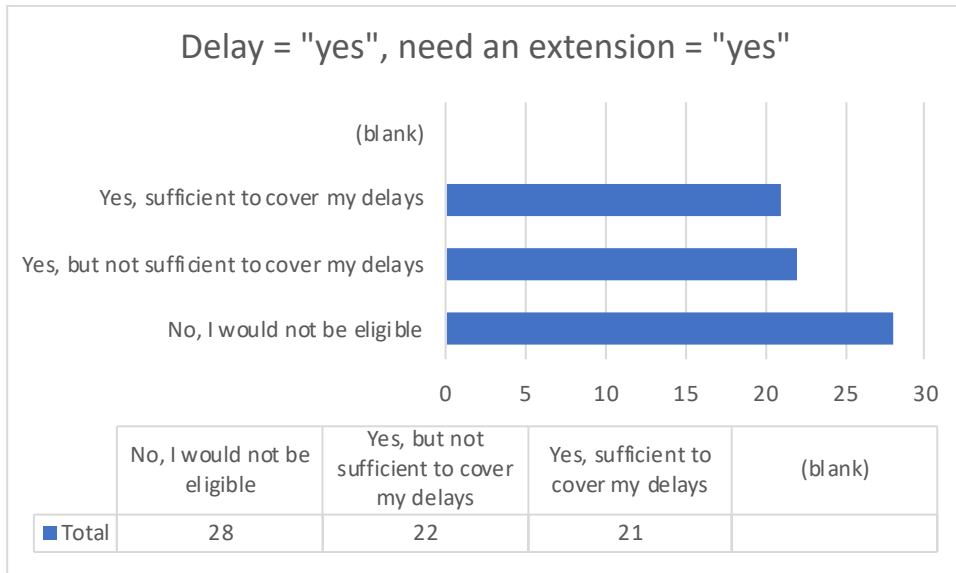


Only 26/91 (28%) of those who are experiencing delays are convinced that they are eligible for an extension that can cover the extent of their delay.

13/20 (65%) of those who are delayed in their project, but say they don't need an extension, think they will not be eligible based on their institution's guidelines.



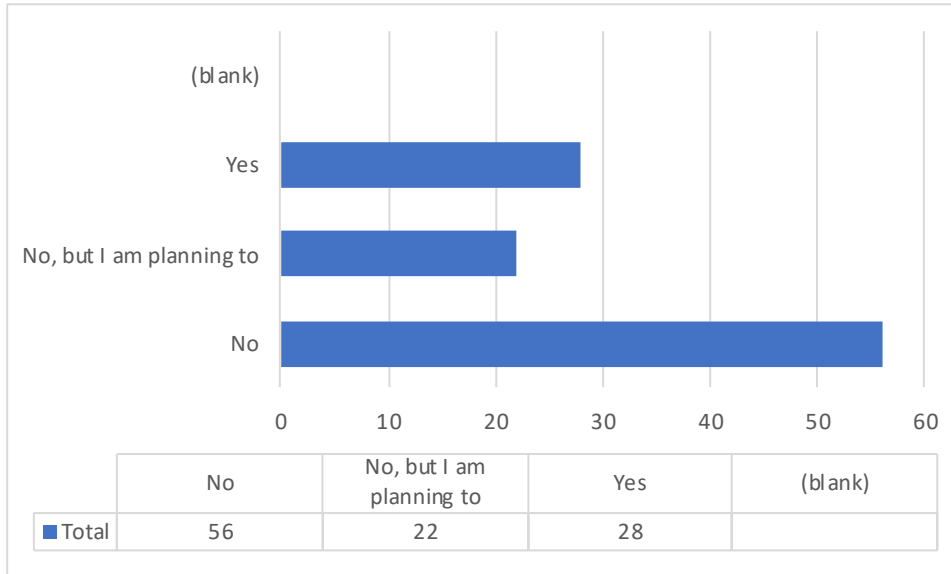
28/71 (39%) of those who are delayed in their project, and say they will need an extension, think they will not be eligible based on their institution's guidelines.



Applications for COVID-19 related contract extensions

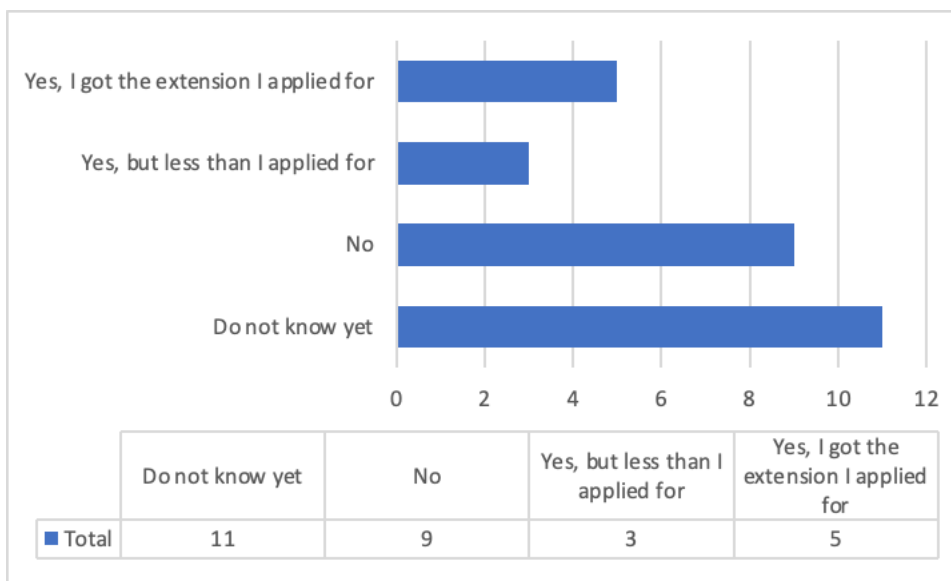
Have you applied for an extension? (n=106)

*28/106 (26%) of respondents who received information from their institution about possible contract extensions, applied. Another 22/106 (21%) said they were **planning to** apply.*



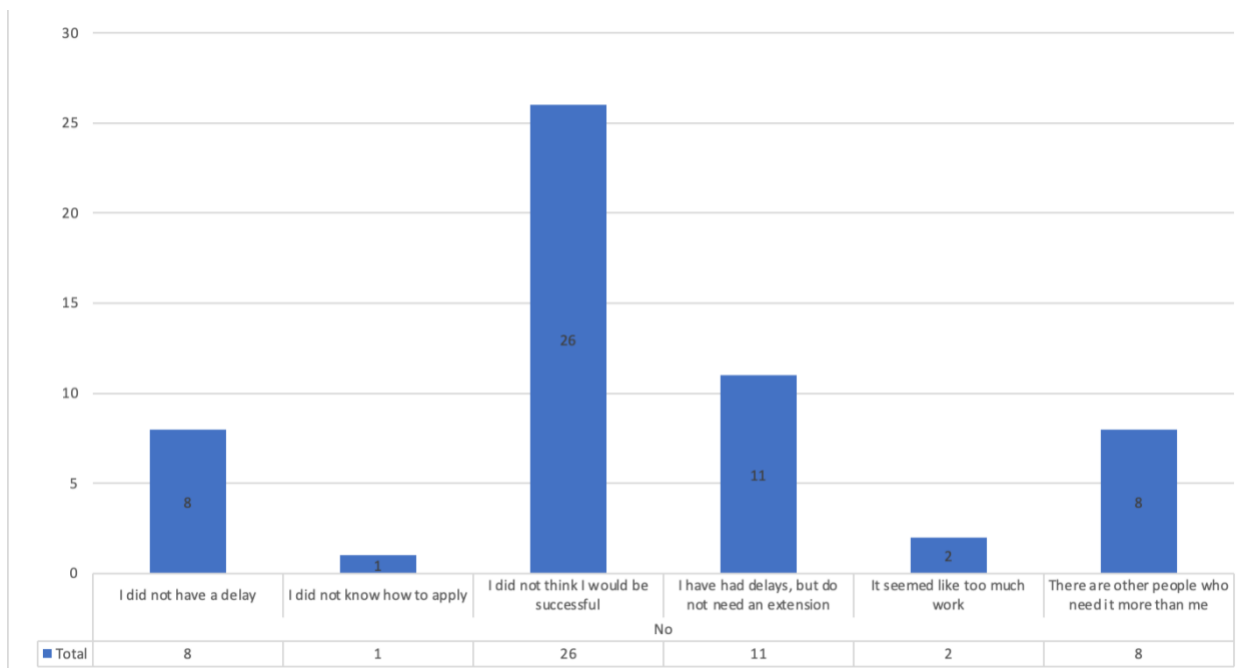
Were you granted an extension? (n=28)

11/28 (39%) of those who needed and applied for an extension were not certain of the outcome yet. Of those who were aware of the outcome, the majority (71%) got no extension or less than they applied for.



Why did you not/ are you not going to apply? (n=56)

56/106 (53%) of respondents who received information from their institution about possible contract extensions is **not planning to apply**. 37/56 (66%) of respondents who are not planning to apply for an extension nonetheless said they need one. The main reason they quote for not applying, is because they don't think they will be successful.



Summary

1. Most respondents (89%) are PhD students (this might have something to do with how local organisations reach out to postdocs and is alarming in itself).
2. These are mostly funded by the Kunnskapsdepartementet or Forskningsrådet.
3. An overwhelming majority (89%) of respondents has suffered delays in their project due to COVID-19.
4. A majority of this majority (78%) says they will need an extension to make up for this delay.
5. In early September, more than a quarter (28%) of respondents were still not informed about extension policies.
6. Nearly half (46%) of the informed respondents did not think the policy was clear enough to apply.
7. A large fraction of respondents who need an extension (39%) don't think they will be eligible based on the extension policies.
8. This is reflected in the large number of respondents who either 1) applied but were unsuccessful in obtaining the extension they needed (71%), or 2) did not even try to apply because they did not think they would be successful, despite needing an extension (66%).
9. Additional comments to the survey are supplied below.

Do you have any other comments?

1. Extensions are dealt with at department levels. We've already been warned that department finances will be an issue
2. I applied for 2 months, was granted 6 weeks, so I am pretty happy with that.
3. It seems that there was no central organisation of how information is distributed. That lead to some departments and faculties communicating very well, while others remained unclear and caused a lot of confusion among temp. staff. The big variation in information between faculties and departments should have been handled better.
4. Extensions should be for every person in our situation. Not case by case, because it is extremely difficult to show how we were affected.
5. I have not been delayed in terms of fieldwork etc, but I moved to a new city for this jobs weeks prior to the pandemic, and have suffered mentally from isolation.
6. I did not apply because I fear my non-Norwegian supervisor (who has been vocally thrilled about his "teaching-free writing Covid holiday" would see me as not fit for the pressure and strain of academia. My mental health has really really taken a turn for the worse and I don't think I will be able to continue in academia after my contract, but at the time it seemed like too high of a risk to fight for a two month extension at the possible cost of my entire future career.
7. The lack of information except for being told to "switch projects" so late in the process is ludicrous. More time has had to be devoted to teaching as well and we are not being compensated in any way. We are effectively being penalized and this will affect us for a good part of our careers.
8. My institute informed me that only PhD candidates with less than 6 months left and practical work that had to be completed were eligible for an extension. I only have 3 months left, but I have all my data, it's just writing that needs to take place. But article writing has been a drag since I haven't been able to get a hold of my supervisor, and the vacation didn't help either. Currently been waiting 6 weeks for comments on my articles. All in all, everything is moving slower, but I'm expected to keep up the pace.
9. The communication about possible extensions was only done in Norwegian, which is an extra barrier for international PhD students.
10. There was a short window of time for applying for an extension and nobody knew how much they were going to be affected yet.
11. It is not possible to apply until the end of my contract, I won't get any extension because of closed kindergartens in march and april, because the first 10 days won't give you any extension and I was home with my daughter "only" 11 days
12. The main issue is for me I think the uncertainty to whether I would be eligible for an extension or not because it is not very clear from the guidelines, and also how hard you will have to argue/fight to get it.
13. Not 100% sure who is responsible for my funding.
14. NTNU has been vague in their communication about extensions due to Covid 19, but I think there are local variations. I had no problem talking to the department leader about an extension, but that was when I myself reached out and specifically asked if I should

- apply for an extension. I explained my situation, and the department leader said I should apply.
15. I'm estimated to be 6-12 months late with my data collection, due to covid-19. But I only got 75 days extension.
 16. NTNU has been clear that having home office does not in and of itself qualify for an extension. At this point in my PhD I have no lab or field work, and I do not have caring responsibilities or any other life circumstances that make a clear case for a delay, so it is quite clear that I do not qualify and I was told on this basis that it was not worth applying. Nevertheless, I found the initial transition to home office to cause a delay that, in my opinion, should merit a small (one month?) extension: meetings were delayed, the process of getting feedback from advisors and supervisors was slower, it took time to work out the logistics of obtaining my computing equipment and other supplies from my office, teaching took up more time, etc. In my opinion, NTNU should have offered at least a one-month extension across the board to all PhD students, which could be augmented by application based on candidates' individual circumstances.
 17. I am still in my first year of PhD and was lucky to get Data before covid started. However if research cruises get delayed or cancelled again next spring I will be in trouble
 18. At this point I am hoping that I don't need to apply for an extension, although my data collection has been delayed. My supervisors advised me to apply for an extension right away since I'm still in the first half of my PhD and they said the institution will favor students closer to the end of their PhD period. If I continue to experience delays this semester, I will probably need to apply for an extension at that point, so the situation is uncertain.
 19. The guidelines are too restricted: Delay caused by e.g. extra teaching ("pliktarbeid") and closed libraries were not approved. In addition, the faculty would not give an extension as I still have two more years to finish my project. (Indeed, my application was not even considered because I have more than six months left on my project.) Consequently, I was asked to reapply when I have about 6 months left on my project. This creates a stressful uncertainty as to whether I should cancel holidays to try to "catch up" on my project, or if I am to trust the faculty to grant me an extension if I apply again next year.
 20. I have been asked to wait until next year to apply as my end date is March 31st next year. I find this to be very stressful as I am already over 3 months delayed and have the impression that there is in no way any guarantee that an extension will be given. I hear the guidelines are supposed to be followed equally across the whole university but I am hearing rumors that some faculties may be stricter than others, because they have different budget situations. This is very frustrating...
 21. Even though I have not personally had any need for extension, many of my colleagues have complained over lacking information about the opportunity to apply for extension. For instance, the deadline for applying was very well hidden
 22. I am not really sure if I am eligible, I thought I was but according to my leader I am not...
 23. Have kids, so I used some corona omsorgsdager. Will get some of them back. But have been further delayed due to homeoffice situation/lab work. This I will not get back.
 24. Very bad communication at NTNU, IBT regarding extension.

25. Extensions are being given to people who have children and had to care for them during the lockdown. I understand that those are the ones who should have priority in extensions, but lab activities were and still are disrupted. So, it is very premature to evaluate possible delays at the moment. Delays in a PhD may happen in 6-12 months from now, when most would have forgotten about the lockdown. There is no simple answer for the extension problem....
26. I worked as much as I was able to from home, even though it was difficult and gave me a lot of mental and physical strain, like neck/back pain and head aches. My partner and I both worked from home in our 25 m² apartment with one big room that is used as kitchen, living room and bedroom combined. No other rooms have sufficient light and air quality to work in, nor space for a table and chair. The kitchen table has only room for one person to work at. The other person worked from the sleeping couch that we use as a bed. I made a lot of efforts to work in these conditions like completely changing my priorities (since I could not work from the lab), working in the evenings when my partner had online meetings where he had to be active and working in weekends since my back would feel bad after some time. Normally I work about 9 hours each working day, in corona lock down I worked about 6 hours per working day. I know other PhD students did not make much effort to work from home. I find it very unfair if I should be denied extra time to finish my PhD just because I worked harder and made more efforts to accommodate the situation.
27. It was my understanding that only people with children or lab work could apply. I have neither. But I don't have a home suited for home working, which has hindered my focus and my work considerably. I have also had server connectivity issues.
28. My delay was due to homeschooling of my son. These days got closed as parental leave due to covid and I immediately got this time added to the end of my contract. In this way I have already gotten the time lost compensated.
29. I am funded in a "forskerstilling" by the Research Council (50%) and by the Regional Health Authority (Samarbeidsorganet) (50%) - two separate projects. Both are delayed due to covid-19. So far, there has been no guidance given by NTNU (to my knowledge) that is specific to temporary staff who are not PhDs or postdocs. Also, my department leadership has not given clear guidance to the PhD candidates I am supervising on contract extension possibilities, or other potential ideas to extend their timelines (e.g. employing them in 20% teaching roles, etc.)
30. Institution tries to discourage application...
31. I think an extension would be helpful, but my supervisor advised otherwise
32. I think the university has been really unsympathetic in this crisis. They don't seem to understand that not everyone can simply shift their research focus to not depend on laboratories or international co-operation.
33. Institute said I was too early into my phd and that the corona pandemic was not expected to significantly delay my phd.
34. I did apply even though the information that was provided was not sufficient. I sent emails to HR to get more information about what was needed. And apparently there

was a dead line that had passed already that PhDs at my department were not informed about.

35. 6 months research stay abroad was canceled just days before the departure. By then, I had spent quite a bit of time planning the stay and applying for an NFR travel grant, contacting both institutions and governments, moving out and getting a new apartment, booking tickets, etc.). Was not granted an extension.
36. The exceptional situation can lead to unethical scientific conduct, which can affect both the PhD student, the institution and the scientific community. There would have to be regulations to ensure that the quality of scientific publications and regulations remain the same.
37. The department have opened up for applications from anyone needing an extension, but unofficially told PhD students, postdocs and supervisors that they do not have money enough to cover the costs. Those graduating this Spring/Summer that applied only got a tiny fraction of what they asked for (1-2 weeks instead of 1-2 months). As funds to the department for compensation are not likely to increase any time soon, this makes things look a bit dim for those of us that graduate in roughly a year and thus have "lower priority" when it comes to compensation.
38. Basically the faculty said we could apply, but that it is very difficult to get it. They also say that they will not have any applications until the end of the PhD- period- something that I find very strange, since I have to plan in quite a time ahead to be able to do my project.
39. my institution has held a phd meeting to discuss possibility of extension in April, but has not followed up nor offered avenues to pursue this extension.
40. Part of the reason for my refusal was a sickleave in May, weeks after lockdown ended.