

## **Nadia Islam**

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**From:** USC Doctorate in Social Work  
**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2020 9:02 AM  
**To:** Michael Hurlburt; Nadia Islam  
**Cc:** Renee Smith-Maddox; Stacy Eileen Kratz; Juan Carlos Araque; June Wiley  
**Subject:** DSW Residency 1 Update

Dear Cohort 9 DSW Colleagues,

Thank you for your emails of support and encouragement since the program's announcement that residencies will occur virtually. Our faculty team is actively working to ensure that the residencies fulfill the spirit and intent of the courses, as designed. With the rapidly changing situation in the United States, reconfigurations of events of all kinds have now, unfortunately, become commonplace. We know this particular situation has affected travel plans for individuals in all corners of society, including arrangements made in advance to secure more affordable rates. We're heartened that many of you have been able to secure refunds of pre-payments for transportation and lodging. Others are negotiating more challenging communications from various vendors. Presently, the university has not conveyed plans to offer financial assistance to students affected by required changes to programming resulting from COVID-19 precautions. Our recommendations are to carefully document all of your communications related to a vendor's refusal to provide a refund or credit for a residency-related (SOWK 712) travel expense. Should the university's position change, we will inform you of their instructions for follow-up.

Meanwhile, please feel free to direct any questions to me or your DSW Student Association representatives. I have asked your reps to document your questions so we may address them during an upcoming virtual roundtable we will schedule in the next couple of weeks.

Thank you for your patience and fortitude as we navigate uncertainty this semester.

Sincerely,

**Michael S. Hurlburt, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Director of Doctoral Programs, and Chair of the PhD Program

**Nadia Islam, PhD, LCSW**

Program Director  
Doctorate of Social Work (DSW) Program

USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work  
University of Southern California  
1150 South Olive Street, Suite T1100  
Los Angeles, CA 90015  
Tel: 213.821.9363