**Exploring the Effects of COVID-19 on Nascent Entrepreneurial Intent in the UK**

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## **ABSTRACT**

**Aims/Purpose/Scope:** The purpose of this dissertation was to explore the effects of COVID-19 on nascent entrepreneurial intent in the UK.

**Design/Methodology/Approach:** The methodology used to investigate the effects of COVID-19 on nascent entrepreneurial intent in the UK was qualitative research, in the form of semi-structured interviews. A sample of nascent entrepreneurs over 18 was asked about their experience with COVID-19 and how the pandemic has affected their entrepreneurial attitude, intent and motivations.

**Main Findings/Conclusion:** From the research it can be concluded that COVID-19 did impact nascent entrepreneurial intent, both in a negative and positive way. The participants all have the self-efficacy to become an entrepreneur. Most participants had a promotion based regulatory focus; however, the impact of the pandemic has caused this to shift, making participants more cautious and wanting security. Some participants found security in being self-employed, whereas others identified security in being wage-employed. All participants saw opportunities in the pandemic, and all had different motivations to pursue these opportunities, however, fear was a common factor as to why participants stayed in wage-employment.

**Originality:** As it stands, few academic articles and studies are attributed to the understanding of nascent entrepreneurial intent post COVID-19. As the world after COVID-19 is relatively new, this exploratory research served to highlight these issues and raise awareness by way of discussion.

**Key words:** Covid-19, Nascent, Entrepreneurial intent, UK