Decision in light of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19)

Background
In light of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Lund University is adapting its activities in order to continue to conduct teaching, research, external engagement and administration as safely and responsibly as possible.

As far as possible, the University observes rules, general guidelines and recommendations primarily from the Swedish Public Health Agency and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (UD) regarding the coronavirus, but also makes its own decisions. The University is in continuous contact with other higher education institutions as well as relevant public authorities and organisations.

The recommendations of the Swedish Public Health Agency and UD are updated as the situation changes and this applies accordingly to the University’s overall decisions and approach. Students and staff are urged to stay updated via the websites of these public authorities as well as the University’s dedicated coronavirus webpages: lu.se/corona and lunduniversity.lu.se/corona.

On 17 March 2020, the Government recommended that universities and other higher education institutions should switch to remote teaching as of 18 March 2020. On 29 May, the Government decided that universities and other higher education institutions could resume more regular activities regarding education as of 15 June. The Swedish Public Health Agency’s rules, general guidelines and recommendations to reduce the spread of infection are still to be observed. To provide support for the organisation, there are guidelines on the application of decisions regarding education during the ongoing coronavirus outbreak.

On 14 March 2020, UD decided to advise against non-essential travel to all countries. This advice has subsequently been amended in step with how the situation has developed in different countries. The University takes UD’s advice into consideration regarding its activities.

On 27 March 2020, the Government decided to restrict public gatherings and public events to no more than 50 participants. The University also observes this in its own activities for as long as the restriction lasts.

In all activities an assessment is to be made of the risk of spreading infection and sufficient measures are to be implemented in order to avoid the spread of infection.
In order to ensure a safe work and study environment for employees and students, and to help to reduce the spread of infection in society, the University has made the following decision.

**Decision**
In light of the above, the University has decided

*for education:*

- that teaching and assessment of students’ performance may be conducted on the University’s premises as of 15 June 2020. In such activities, this decision and the Swedish Public Health Agency’s rules, general guidelines and recommendations to reduce the spread of Covid-19 are to be observed. Priority is to be given to teaching and assessment that is impossible, or possible only with great difficulty, to conduct remotely. Such activities are to be preceded by a risk assessment concerning the risk of spreading infection. No physical gatherings are to be of more than 50 people. The vice-chancellor tasks the dean of each faculty to decide in detail on how this is to be carried out. This decision cannot be delegated further.

- to permit changes in approved course and programme syllabi regarding the autumn semester of 2020 and the spring semester of 2021 concerning the forms of assessment of the students’ performance and for teaching to be conducted using digital solutions to the extent that is necessary for compliance with this decision. The decision on changes is made by the officer who made the decision on the course or programme syllabus in question. The decision is to be documented and the reason for the change is to be stated. There is to be consultation with the student union concerned.

- to carry out education components abroad, to the extent that these are deemed possible to conduct safely based on any travel restrictions and while taking into consideration the receiving county’s and the higher education institution’s rules, regulations and recommendations.

- to receive students from other countries for education at Lund University to the extent possible while taking into consideration any travel restrictions as well as the rules, regulations and recommendations of the students’ home countries.

*for employees:*

- that staff should work from home to the extent that the line manager deems possible when taking activities and the work environment into account.

- that as far as possible meetings, conferences or other gatherings are to be conducted using digital tools. In cases where physical gatherings are held, the rules and recommendations of the Swedish Public Health Agency to reduce the spread of infection are to be observed. Physical meetings, conferences or other gatherings are never to be organised with more than
50 participants. This applies to all activities at the University, i.e. education, research, external engagement and administration. It applies to gatherings of the University’s employees and students as well as invited guests.

- until further notice to only grant permission for domestic business trips which in consultation with the line manager are deemed necessary and possible to undertake in a way that avoids spreading Covid-19. The Swedish Public Health Agency’s recommendations are to be observed for such trips.

- until further notice only to grant permission for business trips abroad which in consultation with the line manager are deemed necessary and possible to undertake in a way that avoids spreading Covid-19 and take into consideration any travel restrictions. In cases where UD advises against personal travel, this advice is also to be observed for business trips abroad as far as this is deemed possible.

- to receive international visits only to the extent that it is deemed possible while avoiding the spread of Covid-19 and complying with any travel restrictions as well as the rules, regulations and recommendations of the visitors’ home countries.

In cases where studies or work are negatively impacted by the decision above, you are to contact your line manager or programme director so that work and studies can be conducted in the best possible way.

This decision applies as of 22 October 2020 and replaces the previous decision made on 3 September 2020 (reg. no STYR 2020/251).

The decision on this matter was taken by the undersigned vice-chancellor in the presence of university director Susanne Kristensson following a consultation with a representative of the Lund University Students’ Unions and a presentation by general counsel Annette Nilsson, Legal Division.

Torbjörn von Schantz

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