Decision in light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic

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

The University observes the applicable parts of the statutes, general guidelines and recommendations from relevant authorities to reduce transmission of the virus. The University is in continuous contact with other higher education institutions, public authorities and organisations in order to achieve as good a concordance as possible in its own decisions and adaptations. The rules and recommendations 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 the Swedish Public Health Agency and Region Skåne as well as the University’s dedicated coronavirus webpages: lu.se/corona and lunduniversity.lu.se/corona where you can also find links to the relevant authorities.

Since March 2020, education has largely been conducted digitally, with continuous adjustments made to comply with applicable restrictions and recommendations. To provide support for the organisation, there are guidelines on the application of decisions regarding education during the ongoing coronavirus outbreak.

The spread of infection increased sharply across society during the winter, which led to further restrictions. The Government decided to instruct public authorities to ensure that only employees whose physical presence is necessary for their activities are to work on the authority’s premises up to and including 31 May 2021. In light of this, the University’s activities have been affected and its decisions have become stricter.

The spread of infection is still at a high level in the community and far-reaching measures to avoid the spread of Covid-19 are needed. The University's previous decision to severely restrict access to study places and other spaces for students has, however, negatively affected the students’ work environment and ability to pursue their studies. The University therefore needs to adjust its decision in this regard, so that access to study places is increased while avoiding the spread of Covid-19 as far as possible.
In order to ensure a safe work and study environment for employees and students, and to help to reduce the spread of infection throughout society, the University has made the following decision.

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

- all activities that do not require a physical presence on the University's premises are to be carried out digitally, with the following clarifications.

for education:

- teaching and assessment of students’ performance (examination) is to be conducted digitally without physical attendance on the University’s premises. Only teaching and assessment that are impossible to conduct remotely, or possible only with great difficulty, may be carried out with physical attendance on the University’s premises following a decision by the dean. In such activities, this decision and the Public Health Agency’s rules, general guidelines and recommendations to reduce the spread of Covid-19 are to be observed. Such activities are to be preceded by a risk assessment concerning the risk of spreading infection. The vice-chancellor tasks the dean of each faculty with deciding in detail how this is to be carried out. This decision cannot be delegated further.

- to permit changes in approved course and programme syllabi regarding 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 only to the extent that these are deemed possible to conduct safely based on any travel restrictions and avoiding the spread of Covid-19, and while taking into consideration the receiving country’s and the host institution’s rules, regulations and recommendations.

- to receive students from other countries for education at Lund University only to the extent possible while taking into consideration any travel restrictions.

- students are encouraged to continue studying from home by default. Study spaces and computer rooms must remain accessible to an extent that provides opportunities to look up information, use reference materials and access equipment for online teaching and examination, while avoiding the spread of Covid-19. Other spaces intended for students, such as group rooms, lunch rooms, coffee rooms etc. are to remain accessible insofar as this is possible while avoiding the spread of infection. To provide support for the organisation, there are guidelines for managing study spaces during
the ongoing coronavirus outbreak. For libraries, see below under the heading *Other.*

*for employees:*

- employees who do not need to be at the workplace to maintain necessary activities are to work from home. The line manager assesses the possibility for such work taking activities and the work environment into account.

- meetings, conferences or other gatherings are to be conducted digitally. In exceptional cases where physical gatherings must be held, the rules and recommendations of the 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 participants than necessary. 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.

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

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

- to receive visits only to the extent that it is deemed absolutely necessary and possible to conduct by the operational manager while avoiding the spread of Covid-19. In the case of international visits, consideration must be given to any travel restrictions as well as the rules and recommendations of the visitors’ home countries.

*other:*

- activities aimed at the general public, such as museums, art galleries, shops and parks, must adapt their activities to the rules that follow from the ordinance (2021:8) on special restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

- libraries are to be kept open for the University’s employees and students to the extent necessary to allow the use of study spaces, deposits or lending of books and access to reference literature. To provide support for the organisation, there are guidelines for managing study spaces during the ongoing coronavirus outbreak.
− activities involving receptions or equivalent are to be kept open only to the extent necessary to maintain legal requirements or other necessary activities.

As a starting point, for all activities there is to be an assessment of the risk of spreading infection and adequate measures are to be taken to avoid the risk of spreading infection.

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 from 18 March 2021 and replaces the previous decision made on 18 January 2021 (Reg. no STYR 2020/251).

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

Erik Renström

Copies sent to:
All faculties
All administrative divisions
Internal Audit
Lund University Library
University Specialised Centres
University Cultural and Public Centres
MAX IV Laboratory
Lund University Student Unions Association
Staff organisations