

Press Release



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Rector's Message – teaching arrangements for the Fall Semester 2020 – 2021

Dear students,
Dear colleagues,

During its meeting on July 8, 2020, the Senate was called upon to make a decision regarding teaching arrangements for the Fall Semester 2020 – 2021, and the best possible management of the COVID-19 disease. The following decisions were taken:

1. Students of the University of Cyprus should be present to attend classes at the beginning of the new academic semester.
2. If the social distancing measures are lifted, then teaching of the courses will be carried out (throughout the semester) with full physical presence.
3. If the general epidemiological picture worsens to the point that we will return to the situation we had to face in March, then teaching will be carried out remotely (with the exception of the courses that can only be conducted with physical presence and for which other arrangements will be decided).
4. If measures of social distancing are adopted by the State, then depending on the measures, all classes that can be conducted with physical presence will be carried out, and the rest will be conducted remotely.
5. A final decision on how teaching will be carried out will be made by the Senate a few days before the beginning of the Fall Semester 2020 - 2021. It is understood that instructors should be prepared for all contingencies (including hybrid teaching and livestreaming).
6. It is expected that regardless of the teaching method, midterms and final exams will be held in person.

As our country seems to be managing the crisis with prudence and efficiency so far, and provided that in September the positive image will continue and the restrictive measures will be lifted by the State, teaching will be carried out in person. Undoubtedly the holistic experience of study and research is the desired deliverable for students, academics and researchers. Otherwise, if measures-protocols of social and physical distancing apply, they will be adhered to, resulting to conducting some courses with physical presence and others will be taught online.

The University of Cyprus will remain alert. The university community is called upon to follow and respect the new culture of hygiene and behaviour for the safety of all and especially the vulnerable groups.

Dear members of the university community,

In difficult times, the true identity of the people is revealed, along with the strength and effective operation of the organizations. I believe that the University of Cyprus has so far been able to prove that it is flexible and adaptable to difficult conditions, that its people are flexible and adaptable. The University of Cyprus will remain focused on achieving its multiple objectives in these challenging times, setbacks are not an option. We need to discover new and complementary ways of operating and continue on our path to excellence; this is what we have been doing all along, and we will continue to do so in the new academic year. Our commitment to quality teaching is a given, whether it is offered in person or online. The same goes for the research conducted at our University.

We have learned a lot during the epidemic. Above all, we have learned to make better use of the technology at our disposal, and communicate directly and honestly to strengthen our University in this difficult time.

Dear students,

Have trust in your University. We look forward to welcoming the new group of students and continuing to educate our existing undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students with the same commitment.

Dear colleagues,

I would like to thank you all for your patience and perseverance.
Challenges and opportunities are ahead of us.

Happy Summer,

Warm regards,

Professor Tasos Christofides,
Rector

End of announcement
