

Dear partners,

Yesterday evening, the national and regional authorities approved a series of reinforced contingency measures for the coronavirus (COVID-19), which will be applied throughout the region of Madrid from next Wednesday, March 11, and will have an initial duration of 15 days (until the 25th of March included). According to the Order of the Department of Health of the Community of Madrid, available in UC3M webpage, the duration of the previously mentioned measures, may eventually be updated on an individual basis, notwithstanding subsequent extensions agreed by motivated decision.

The measures include the suspension of the teaching activities, that were not previously available on-line, at all educational levels, universities included and in light of these reinforced measures of contention, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid has decided upon the following measures:

- Will suspend all teaching activities, that were not previously available on-line, from 10 until 25 March.
- Will put forward all academic procedures to ensure minimum impact on the teaching and evaluation activities.
- The University will remain open for the rest of non-strictly academic activities facilitating to UC3M personnel, when possible, remote working.

All faculty and teaching staff of the University have been informed by an instruction of the Vice-Rector of Studies of the different extraordinary procedures enabled, affecting ALL UC3M students, to mitigate the effects of the suspending of the teaching activities over these two weeks. This instruction states:

- All faculty and teaching staff must adopt all measures possible available for the correct development of all the learning activities.
- All faculty and teaching staff should provide access to on-line course resources (commented slides, class notes, etc.) through AULA GLOBAL platform.
- All faculty and teaching staff should explore enabling virtual teaching procedures.
- All faculty and teaching staff must guarantee online office hours to all students.
- Continue evaluation procedure must be adapted to eliminate any impact to the final grade of students. This could include a relaxation on the continuous evaluation process requirements that would grant the 100% of the grade through a final exam, or other evaluable works.

Please, be advised that these are the measures being effective over the closure period. These measures, with the exception of those related to the evaluation procedures, will not necessarily be extended further than the suspension of the teaching activities and therefore will not necessarily be available once the academic activity has been reinstated. Therefore, we strongly advise our partners that international students remain in Madrid following any further academic and safety instructions that are put forward. If due to force majeure a student would decide to return to their home country, we will grant the evaluation process to each student, treating on an individual basis with the responsible faculty of the courses taken what other supporting measures can be made available to these students, including the possibility of doing a remote final exam.

The University is focused on the health and safety of its students and staff and monitors the evolution of the situation in close contact with international, national and regional health authorities. Furthermore, basic protective measures have been adopted and informed to all the University community. We remind all our partners that the assessment Level for COVID-19 in Spain continues to be “Limited Community Transmission” and that authorities have so far ruled out raising the alert level beyond the lowest of three. Moreover, no travel restrictions have been implemented, although a general recommendation of limiting unnecessary travel has been issued to avoid the spread of the coronavirus. Also note that despite these protective measures, no case has been reported yet in the university and that the total number of cases in the city and region of Madrid remains at 0.1% of the population.

We will continue to provide support and assessment to international students through the International Relations and Cooperation emails:

erasmusplus@uc3m.es

mne@uc3m.es

outgoing-getafe@uc3m.es

movilidadeps@uc3m.es

movilidadcolme@uc3m.es

and from the emails of the Carlos III International School (C3IS):

carlos3is@uc3m.es

We will keep you promptly informed on any changes that may arise. We are strongly pursuing to minimize the impact of this unexpected situation on our international activities, particularly on all the international students that are with us over this semester, so we thank all international partners for their support and understanding over this period.