



UNIVERSIDAD DE CORDOBA

RECTOR'S STATEMENT ON EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES TAKEN DUE TO THE EMERGENCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENERAL GUIDELINES ISSUED BY THE HEALTH AUTHORITIES

Given the current situation produced by the emergence and transmission of the COVID-19 coronavirus, the University of Cordoba establishes, as guiding principles of its action, those of responsibility, normalcy and coordination with the actions that are being carried out both internally and in steadfast collaboration with our national and regional authorities, especially our Health and Labour officials, whose guidelines we shall follow.

The initial measures that the entire university community must observe are the following:


- 1) **Statements or communications to the press and social media.** Information given to the press and social media is to be restricted **solely and exclusively to the UCO Communications Office**, through which the latest news and developments are to be conveyed. This sole objective of this approach is to provide continuous, up-to-date and consistent information, and to avert speculation or individual assessments that could generate confusion.
- 2) **The coordination of possible measures to be adopted within the University of Cordoba.** Any measure that is adopted, be it academic, or related to regular operations, and that is related in any way to the current situation, **must be previously cleared and coordinated with the Vice-Rectorate for Coordination, Infrastructure and Sustainability**, which will consult with the university's Occupational Risk Prevention Service.
- 3) **The holding of events and acts at University facilities.** Henceforth, until the end of March, all events organised by any UCO body, and that were to be held at its facilities, and were to involve the attendance of people from outside the University, are to be **suspended or postponed**. As the situation unfolds, appropriate measures will be adopted. With reference to internal meetings of people forming part of the university community, the need for them should be reassessed. If it is decided that they must be held, due to the importance or urgency of the issues to be discussed, they may be held, as usual.
- 4) **The holding of acts and events organised by entities outside the UCO at University facilities.** With regard to all those events organised by bodies external to the UCO, and that were to be held at its facilities, their organizers are to be notified that they must be **suspended or postponed** if they were scheduled for the month of March. For subsequent events, instructions will be issued depending upon how the situation unfolds.

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- 5) **The authorisation of new space reservations is hereby suspended.** Until instructions to the contrary, the reservation of spaces for any activities are hereby suspended, whether the event is organised by a body outside the UCO, or by the UCO itself, but involves the presence of external parties, regardless of when the event in question is scheduled.
- 6) **Inter-generational Centre.** The University of Córdoba has temporarily suspended the activities of the Francisco Esteban Intergenerational Centre, as per the guidelines issued by the Health authorities regarding the population facing the highest level of risk. This **suspension** will be maintained until further notice, depending on how the situation develops.
- 7) **Continuing Education Courses.** All Continuing Education courses that have not begun are **postponed** until further notice.
- 8) **Plans and measures in the academic sphere to ensure education.** Measures are being designed to prevent and minimise the negative effects that the current situation, or one featuring a more unfavourable outcome, could have on our students' academic records, whether they are studying under mobility programs or not, and depending on the measures adopted or that may be adopted in the future. Said plans will be brought to the attention of the university community in the event that their application is necessary.
- 9) **Defences of Doctoral Theses.** Defences of doctoral theses are **suspended** until further notice, as they entail the presence of people from outside the university community. Doctoral thesis defences that are scheduled are to be carried out, if deemed appropriate, in a closed-door, videoconference format, this question being regulated by the Vice-Rectorate for Postgraduate Programmes and Educational Innovation.
- 10) **International programme students.** Students under the Erasmus programme, or any other international programme, who are returning to or commencing studies at the University of Córdoba should immediately contact the Office of International Relations (ORI), by e-mail at erasmus.estudios@uco.es, where they will receive instructions regarding the actions to be taken, in coordination with and under the counsel of the UCO's Occupational Health and Risk Prevention Service. Compliance with this procedure will be certified by the Office of International Relations (ORI) with the corresponding accreditation document.
- 11) People who have been beneficiaries of any funding/scholarships from the UCO for stays abroad, whatever their duration, **must postpone their departure until further notice.**
- 12) **Collaboration by the entire University Community.** All university community, PDI, and PAS personnel, and students, are asked for their **utmost cooperation** in following the public health recommendations issued by the University of Cordoba and by the competent entities and bodies.

The University of Cordoba trusts in the understanding, by all the parties that may be affected, of the need for these measures, always valuing the common good of the university community, in particular, and of society, in general.

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