

Press Release



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Rector's Message – University of Cyprus Operating Status – New phase of pandemic management

Dear colleagues,

Dear students,

Cyprus has entered the new phase of pandemic management (from Thursday, May 21, 2020), and the University of Cyprus closely monitoring all recent developments, carefully proceeded to the operation of administrative services with the physical presence of employees on May 25, 2020, while providing facilitations to vulnerable groups and parents in accordance with the relevant circular by the Director of Administration and Finance.

Once again, I would like to thank our community for the professionalism and self-control during the pandemic crisis. Planning the next day is our main concern: It has already been decided by the Senate that the Summer Semester courses will be conducted remotely and exams will be held with physical presence; Precautionary, UCY already considers scenarios for its operation for the Winter Semester 2020 – 2021; Moreover, laboratory courses, clinical training and exams of specific nature will be completed within the summer season. The exams of the Spring Semester 2020 are being carried out remotely with success and this is a proof of the valuable traits – such as adaptability- of our community during difficult times. For all of the above, I believe we should be proud of our university.

The new phase of the crisis management also allows the operation of our Library from June 1st, 2020, according to the health framework which will be announced, and in compliance with the hygiene and distancing rules that are in effect. Concerned with the protection of the community, at the initial stage the Library will operate for members of the University of Cyprus only, our students and the external registered members, Library cardholders. The Library will inform the community regarding its operation mode during the pandemic.

Moreover, after a meeting between the Director of Music Talent Development Program and the COVID-19 Crisis Management Team, it has been decided that courses with the physical presence of students will commence, only for specific ages/levels, while distance learning (individually and in groups) will continue for all ages/levels.

The Athletic Center following the relevant decrees, has reopened its tennis courts under specified conditions, whilst the rest of its facilities, outdoor and indoor, remain closed until a new decree is issued.

Regarding the organization of open conferences/events, everything is being postponed, irrespective of the organizer, until July 15, 2020. The University of Cyprus, taking into consideration the concerns of our final year students about their Graduation Ceremonies, is examining possible practical solutions; however, any arrangement will depend on the course of the pandemic.

Direct recommendations and guidelines for the operation of laboratories and public reception centers will be disseminated soon, and trainings by the Safety, Health and Environment Sector in collaboration with the Health Centers will be provided.

Dear colleagues,

Dear students,

The operation of the University during the pandemic is a great challenge. As an academic institution, a provider of education and knowledge, we had to take the lead in adapting to the new conditions. We have immediately and successfully implemented remote working and learning. As a university community we proven ourselves able to effectively operate even under difficult conditions, and we will continue to do so. The safety and health of everyone within the University is our main concern.

We will safeguard the healthy workplace conditions. The gradual return to our university is filling us with optimism about adjusting and working effectively during the pandemic. We have come through this stronger and I am certain that with the constant work and contribution of all members of our community the operation of the university will continue unhindered.

Within the coming days, our university will be called upon to further utilize all new practices learnt, through operating during the pandemic: Mobility re-invented; enrichment of teaching tools; a new culture of communication, once again human-centered; and reinforcement of research and cooperation with our international partners, should be addressed as the stake and the opportunity which cannot be missed.

With our compass always set on excellence, we must keep in mind that society relies on us to provide examples of appropriate and modern operation. We must live up to the expectations of our society, co-workers and partners.

Sincerely,



Professor Tasos Christofides,
Rector

End of announcement