



## **STATEMENT FROM THE RECTORS OF THE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES OF ANDALUSIA EXTENDING THE MEASURES ADOPTED ON THE OCCASION OF COVID-19 DATED 15 MARCH 2020**

Following the declaration of the *alert state* by the Government of Spain, by virtue of Royal Decree 463/2020 of March 14<sup>th</sup>, and in development of the measures dictated in the Order of March 13<sup>th</sup> of the Ministry of Health and Families, by which preventive measures of public health are adopted in the Autonomous Community of Andalusia as a consequence of the situation and evolution of the coronavirus (COVID-19), the Rectors of the Public Universities of Andalusia, in a meeting held on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, have decided to agree on a set of general and temporary guidelines to guarantee, as a matter of priority, the protection of the health of university staff, while giving continuity to essential administrative services, during the time we remain in this exceptional situation on the occasion of the COVID-19.

During this period, which may be extended in accordance with the measures adopted by the Government of Spain and/or the Government of the Autonomous Community of Andalusia, all the centres, services and units of the Andalusian Universities will remain closed to the public and every effort will be made to minimise, as far as possible, the presence of the university community on our premises.

The objective of these measures is to maintain, in the best possible way, the university activity under the principles of institutional loyalty to the Government of the Nation and the Government of the Autonomous Community of Andalusia and to guarantee, as a basic guiding principle, the preservation of the health of our university community and the collaboration in the collective containment of the contagion.

### **General measures:**

1. Maintaining the suspension of all face-to-face teaching activities (theoretical and practical) from March 16<sup>th</sup> to March 30<sup>th</sup>, when the situation will be re-evaluated.
2. Maintaining the suspension of all courses and activities programmed in the spaces of the universities.
3. Maintaining the suspension of all cultural activities.
4. Maintaining the suspension of all activities associated with curricular and extracurricular practices developed within university facilities. The curricular and extracurricular practices that are carried out outside the university facilities may be maintained in function of the external entity and as long as that they can be developed by telematic means.
5. Maintaining the suspension of field trips.



6. Maintaining the suspension of service commissions and trips outside of the universities for work reasons, including commissions to participate in competitive examinations, competitions and doctoral thesis defenses.
7. Maintaining the closure of libraries, study rooms and sports facilities.
8. Proceeding with the closure of canteens, cafeterias and copy services. In the case of the services of university residences and halls of residence, where students continue to be housed, these will only provide their service to these students and with total respect for preventive measures in health matters.

### **Measures for Administration and Service Staff:**

1. Guaranteeing that these measures are established without prejudice to the subjection of all staff members to the needs of the service and their availability, when required, for the provision of the service.
2. In order to guarantee, as far as possible, the continuity of the services in this situation, the Administration and Services Staff will carry out their activity by telematic means, in accordance with the requirements and conditions that will be established by the Management and always in accordance with the tasks that are assigned by those responsible for the services.
3. Extraordinary and justified cases in which it is not possible to carry out the working day by telematic means and in which it is not necessary for the employees to attend in person, shall be considered as justified absence, without entailing the loss of rights.
4. The Management of each University shall determine and communicate, within a short period of time, the planning of the minimum services that will be necessary to provide in person, including those corresponding to external contracts.
5. In the case of the provision of face-to-face services, care will be taken in all cases to promote the reconciliation of work and family life and to guarantee health safety in the workplace.
6. In determining the person(s) to work in person, priority shall be given to staff who volunteer. In the event that the necessary personnel are not available to comply with the work programmes, the criteria determined by the Management shall be applied.
7. Both in the activity carried out in person and in that carried out through telematic means, on a temporary basis and during the period in which this exceptional situation is maintained, tasks may be reassigned by the heads of service, heads of units or work teams, in accordance with the circumstances.
8. Universities shall provide, as far as possible, the technical means that are necessary for the effective performance of the professional activity by telematic means.
9. All staff members should be available and consult regularly on a daily basis the information that the University may send through the means established for this purpose (mainly, corporate email and the website of the institution).



### **Measures for Teaching and Research Staff:**

1. All Teaching and Research Staff will continue their teaching and management activities on a non-attendance basis, and their research activity will also preferably be carried out on a non-attendance basis.
2. When this is not possible and on an exceptional basis, this personnel will be able to access university facilities, always on a voluntary basis, and following the hygiene and health guidelines set by the authorities to avoid the spread of the COVID-19. In these cases, the access to the facilities must be done accrediting the membership to the University or by means of the university cards.
3. Non-attendance teaching activities will be carried out through the different platforms and means authorized by the Universities.
4. Tutorials will also be maintained and will be carried out virtually through the aforementioned teaching platforms, by e-mail or any other non-attendance system authorized by the University.
5. In view of the exceptional circumstances in which we find ourselves, we ask the teaching staff to be as flexible as possible in their teaching and assessment activities, in order to reduce the academic damage that this situation entails for the students.
6. Those activities that are necessary for the programming of the next course, as well as any others that are considered essential for the correct functioning of the institution, will be carried out by means of virtual meetings.

### **Measures and recommendations for students:**

1. To guarantee that the student body refrains from going to university facilities and spaces, remaining in their homes and places of residence.
2. To try to make the most of this exceptional period of quarantine, since, despite the measures adopted, the course officially continues.
3. To pay attention to all the informative and guiding communications that are sent to them by the Government Team, the Administration and Services Staff and the Teaching and Research Staff, with special attention to the messages on the official websites and the corporate e-mail.

The Andalusian Public Universities guarantee that, despite the exceptional nature of this situation, they will ensure that the rights of students are safeguarded and that the best possible solution is found for any academic dysfunctions that may arise.

In the conviction that we will be able to face the enormous challenges that this situation presents us with solvency and that our institutions may even be strengthened as a



community, the rectors ask the entire university community to act responsibly and with institutional commitment, complying with the rules derived from the current *alert state*, for their own good and that of our society as a whole.