



THE RECTOR

Pursuant to Rector's Decree of 30 April 2021 which, in accordance with Law-Decree no. 52 of 22 April 2021 (converted, with amendments, into Law no. 87 of 17 June 2021) established parameters for University educational and curricular activities through 31 July 2021;

Pursuant to the amending decree of 12 July last which, as a partial modification to the aforementioned Rector's Decree of 30 April 2021, permitted a maximum of three (3) guests to attend any Master's degree or single-cycle Master's degree programme graduation, without modifying the decisions made for any Bachelor's degree programme, which will continue to be held virtually until 31 July;

Pursuant to the Covid Safety Protocol approved by the University on 28 May 2020 and all subsequent implementation provisions;

Pursuant to Law-Decree no. 105 of 23 July 2021, which served to extend pandemic measures until 31 December;

Acknowledging that the ongoing pandemic, and the increased spread of dangerous variants across Italy, requires diligence in terms of practising social distancing and restricting large gatherings;

With the attendant acknowledgement that clear decisions must be made as soon as possible to allow for all educational activities to be duly and timely planned for the first semester of the upcoming 2021-2022 academic year, in accordance with applicable laws;

Having further assessed the need to reconcile our present decision-making with this ongoing uncertainty, with which University Administration and the various University facilities must inevitably grapple with some degree of flexibility, on both a management and operations level, in order to be able to quickly adapt the organisational model implemented through this decree to any changes arising over the course of the next few months as pandemic conditions evolve;

In light of the instructions provided by the Ministry of University and Research which has, on more than one occasion, sought to raise awareness amongst Italy's universities for the need to prioritise in-person learning whilst abiding by all safety and social-distancing requirements;

Acknowledging that all safety precautions and safeguards attributable to the ongoing uncertainty of the pandemic's trajectory must find a reasonable coexistence with the needs of Italy's major Universities to return to their vocation as centres for in-person learning, without sacrificing the opportunities and innovations these Universities were able to provide through the recently implemented digital-learning strategies, in spite of the uncertain climate in which they were launched;

Thus, considering that within that context all educational activities and related services must return primarily to an in-person basis, in order to pave the way for a return to normalcy which at this juncture has become a priority for all Italian universities, not to mention for the national government and for society at large;

HEREBY DECREES

To adopt the following organizational measures:



Article 1 - Lectures and other face-to-face teaching activities

Lectures and other face-to-face teaching activities must be carried out in person, if the classrooms are available and safety and social-distancing requirements are met.

Lectures will be held according to the applicable semester/quarter calendar, drawn up based on the number of in-person learning hours contemplated in W4, with class times starting at 8:30 a.m.

Classrooms may only be filled to 50% capacity. Higher capacity levels will be permitted provided the proper safety and social-distancing precautions are taken. Students will therefore attend in-person in shifts, booking their spot using the LezioniUnimi app, or the Timetable Portal. All lectures will be streamed online.

Streaming will also facilitate participation by students with health concerns, or those who are immunocompromised, as well as by international students who – given the travel restrictions imposed by the pandemic – would be unable to attend class in person.

Classes need not be recorded; however, the individual Executive Committees and/or Academic Boards may decide to implement specific modalities (e.g. time-limiting access to video content, or the type of lectures involved) in order to handle issues arising from the specific nature of a given academic programme. The option for individual instructors to provide students with any kind of material intended to facilitate their learning, including class recordings via the Ariel platform, shall stand.

Should the in-class spaces be insufficient to permit in-class participation for the entire day, an option will be provided to attend lectures from a study room or from the library, for those students who have booked only certain hours of a given day of lectures. All locations shall have the option to charge computers and smartphones used to attend remote lectures.

University Administration will take a proactive stance on increasing educational assistance and support services, both in “smart” and traditional classrooms.

Given the major changes affecting higher education, and the efforts made to increase access to new digital opportunities, submission of projects to test out new learning modalities (including student-centred learning, and the implementation of approaches first tried last year) will be encouraged, and support for these efforts provided. The ultimate goal is to integrate online learning with classroom learning, through the implementation of a variety of active and participatory strategies (teamwork, flipped strategies, case studies, small discussion sections with breakout rooms and large groups, problem-based scenarios) and technological tools (Moodle, Microsoft Teams, Zoom, videos, forums, etc.) which increase student engagement and optimise in-class activities.

Article 2 – Written and oral exams

Written and oral exams will be held in person, with all safety and social-distancing protocols followed.



To manage logistics, students will be sorted into groups for oral exams, with staggered exam calls which will vary based on the capacity of the assigned classroom. For these reasons, the window to register for a given exam must close at least four (4) days prior to the exam date.

Waivers to in-person exams will only be granted under the following circumstances:

- a) students who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who are in quarantine
- b) students with underlying health concerns as established by applicable law
- c) students who are residents of countries subject to healthcare or travel restrictions

Requests for waivers must be submitted to the class' lead instructor, and to the Head of the Study Programme. Requests may be submitted online. A self-certificate with an unequivocal affirmation of the existence of one of the situations under points (a), (b), and (c) above must be enclosed with any such request.

Please visit the Unimi website for a template. Further information will be supplied through an official notice published in the days following the issuance of this Decree.

Article 3 – Graduation exams

The University has returned to normal final-exam protocols, which shall take place in accordance with the provisions of the Study Programme.

Exams for Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, and single-cycle Master's degree programmes will all be held in person.

For logistical reasons, it is imperative that graduation sessions be scheduled for Saturday mornings, as well.

No more than three (3) guests may accompany any degree candidate.

Article 4 – Faculty office hours

Each faculty member shall hold office hours either in person or remotely, in accordance with the previously established and posted office-hour schedule.

Article 5 - Laboratory and field activities, PhD programmes, on-campus internships

Laboratory activities, including teaching and research, undergraduate and postgraduate thesis work, and on-campus internships, will be carried out in person, in compliance with safety and health provisions. To that end, laboratory facilities have been inspected by the requisite Safety, Sustainability, and Environment Division, to update the posted capacity.

New educational and research laboratory capacity parameters appear in the *“Protocols for in-person use of educational and research laboratories”*, promulgated in the 24 July Circular, which was sent out via email by the designated Safety, Sustainability, and Environment Division and posted to the University website, and is also available at the following link:

<https://www.unimi.it/en/coronavirus-urgent-measures-university-community>

(Decrees and operational guidelines section)



The department head is required to ensure compliance with safety rules in force, and to report any violations.

For purposes of this Decree, field operations shall be deemed equivalent to all laboratory activities.

Article 6 – Masters and advanced courses

Educational activities in any Master's or advanced course may be held in person or online as the specific educational goals require.

Article 7 - Training activities for medical doctors in specialist training and trainees in the health professions

Pursuant to the law, the training activities for medical doctors in specialist training will be carried out in person, according to current procedures.

The activities of trainees in the health professions will ordinarily take place in person, subject to a specific agreement with the training hospitals, and in compliance with safety standards required by law and by the current University Protocol.

Article 8 – Off-campus student and graduate internships

Off-campus internships will be carried out in compliance with current laws on safety and public health protection.

Information on starting and managing curricular (student) and extra-curricular (graduate) internships at external institutions and companies is available on the dedicated webpage, along with the documents required of host institutions and companies with reference to the guidelines of the Lombardy Region.

It should be noted that host institutions and companies are responsible for work safety and health protection, as set out in the specific annex to the training project, which must be duly signed and completed by host institutions and companies. The aforementioned guidelines of the Lombardy Region do not apply to compulsory internships for students enrolled in the programmes of the Departments connected to the Faculty of Medicine, at affiliated hospitals.

Internships undertaken abroad through the COSP are allowed in remote-working mode. They may take place in person in strict compliance with Covid and work safety regulations in force in the destination countries, as well as with the protocols in place at the host institution/company. In the case of onsite activities, the intern will be required to sign a specific disclaimer.

Article 9 - International Mobility

International incoming and outgoing faculty and student mobility, as well as technical, administrative, or library staff mobility, is allowed to the extent permitted by national law.

Article 10 – Library services and other University services

Library and other University services are presently open; please abide by all safety and social-distancing protocols.

Reading-room capacity shall remain at 50% of the posted capacity; higher capacity may be permitted with the proper safety protocols in place.



Front office circulation-desk services remain available via appointment through the app. Texts may be consulted by appointment only, with proper social-distancing measures intended to avoid the risk of any assembly or close proximity of persons, in accordance with the safety and health measures established under the University's Safety Protocol as approved.

Article 11 - Student work

Student work is allowed, in compliance with the Safety Protocol approved by the University, provided that these activities do not replace staff work, as defined by law. The managers of services where the students work may authorize remote working, where the activities may be supervised and are deemed non-deferrable.

Article 12 – Study room attendance

The University will always ensure the availability of study rooms, in a suitable number for the purposes of distancing and compliance with safety and hygiene rules. All study rooms shall be monitored by University staff, who will ensure compliance with those conditions appearing in the "Safety Protocols", and will handle all required disinfection of the area. Rooms may only be filled to 50% capacity. Higher capacity levels above 50% will be permitted provided the proper safety precautions are taken. **The University, in accordance with applicable law, reserves the right to allocate a portion of the study rooms exclusively to students holding a Covid pass. For those rooms, capacity may reach 80%.**

Article 13 – Activities of technical, administrative and library staff working remotely

The activities of technical, administrative and library staff working remotely are governed by a specific provision issued by the Managing Director.

Art. 14 – Other operating provisions

Given the logistical and scheduling challenges posed by the pandemic, classroom assignments will be made by the Academic Logistical Services Sector - Central Area and Città Studi (formerly "CASLOD").

Therefore, the Degree Programmes will not be permitted to assign classrooms independently.

Moreover, any change requests must be submitted by the designated Academic Office overseeing scheduling, rather than by individual instructors.

Disinfection will be ensured in all classrooms, in an efficient manner that reduces the time between lectures to a minimum. Proper discharge of all disinfection protocols will be monitored through inspections ordered by Office of the Managing Director.

Masks shall be worn in all classrooms and all interior spaces on University grounds.

Any classroom which does not currently have a lecture-streaming option will have the proper supports installed to permit streaming.

Article 15 – Validity



All the provisions of this decree are immediately valid and effective **as of 1 August 2021 and will remain in force until 31 December 2021**, unless otherwise provided and or subject to any new national and/or local regulatory provisions setting different guidelines and/or timelines.

In the days following the issuance of this decree, a circular with additional operating information will be posted.

Milan, 26 July 2021

The Rector

Elio Franzini