



Plan to adapt the Teaching Activity of the University of Oviedo for the 2020-21 Academic Year

1. Introduction

The Spanish university system has been through months of concern and uncertainty as it has tried to ensure the common goal that no student should be affected during this course due to the Covid-19 health crisis. With great effort and involvement by all the staff, from the University of Oviedo we have been overcoming the different stages of the state of health alert, and we have guaranteed the continuity of the academic year by adopting extraordinary measures, which have at all times been based on caution, and we have respected the special characteristics of each faculty, school and degree course, and adhered to the guidelines set by the Ministry, ANECA and CRUE.

Given that the threat of Covid-19 has not gone away, the university's academic year 2020-21 will be oriented towards "adapted in-person attendance" which, as far as university autonomy is concerned, aims to guide the way institutions' teaching activities are run during the so-called "new normality".

2. Changes to teaching activities

2.1. General guidelines

Under the situation of "adapted in-person attendance", the process of determining which teaching activities are to be fully or partially replaced by online alternatives should be based on:

- The capacity of classrooms and laboratories using safety spacing; this is being implemented at the university's different faculties and schools.
- The characteristics of the teaching activities for each subject, which both degree and subject coordinators are aware of.

If the available classrooms and laboratories allow face-to-face teaching, all teaching activities are to be carried out that way, in accordance with the "new normality" guidelines, with the option of being replaced by remote alternatives in the event of exceptional lockdown situations.

If classroom and laboratory capacities are not sufficient, teaching and assessment methods are to be changed so that some teaching activities are delivered remotely, taking into account the following principles:

1. The use of alternative remote teaching activities is to be reduced, and in-person attendance maintained where possible.
2. Replacing all of a course's teaching activities with remote alternatives should be avoided except in exceptional circumstances.
3. Efforts should be made to ensure that all groups of students within a given subject are scheduled together.



4. When considering situations where a student does not have the equipment or connectivity necessary to be able to follow remote teaching activities, it is recommended that wherever possible accessible spaces offering these resources are made available at the university's locations.
5. In order to establish contact with first-year students, we will try to ensure that first-year teaching activities are not all conducted remotely. Likewise, reception sessions should be attended in person as far as possible.

2.2. Lectures

Each university location will, according to the characteristics of its classrooms and common areas, organise a calendar of lectures and their type (face-to-face, online or mixed), giving priority to face-to-face attendance as far as possible within the context of the current health restrictions.

2.3. Practical or experimental teaching

The way **practical or experimental teaching** is managed can be changed to other non-face-to-face modes, in line with the recommendations of the Ministry - bearing in mind that the teaching provided must enable learning results to be acquired that are similar to those expected with face-to-face teaching. Any changes must be provided within course teaching guides or attached documents.

With regard to **laboratory practices**, although groups are generally small, where face-to-face teaching in the laboratories is required, the number of groups may be increased - assuming sufficient teaching capacity. Alternatively, personal protection measures should be put in place in order to comply with Department of Health regulations. This framework for reducing the number of people within certain university areas (such as laboratories) is set out in detail in the [Department for Universities' Recommendations](#) (see Appendix, point 9). In fact, under the same point, the following is stated: "It is recommended that materials are not shared. Where this is necessary, extreme caution should be exercised and cleaning with disinfectant or according to the manufacturer's instructions should be emphasised wherever possible.

In regard to training activities that have to be shared by more than one person and cannot be replaced by another teaching activity, an attempt will be made at all times to maintain a maximum distance, and masks are to be worn, and the amount of time spent in close personal contact minimised.

2.4. Tutorials

Tutorials - whether one-to-one or in groups - will be carried out on the set dates and times, either face-to-face or online.

However, in view of the complex circumstances that lie ahead, the University will need to intensify contact with students. It is clear that teaching and research staff will need to increase communication with students and increase monitoring of their studies. Communication mechanisms used for tutoring (email, teaching platforms, forums, telephone, etc) will therefore need to be clearly established and explained to students.



3. Changes to mobility programmes

International and national mobility programmes will continue to take place in this new situation. Mobility of inbound and outbound students, as well as that of teaching staff and administrative and service personnel, is - and will continue to be - a fundamental strategic activity for the University. However, all mobility activities will need to be adapted to the new (and possibly changing) situation, so that distortions are not created in terms of support plans for social inclusion and, very specifically, under education plans and under the acquisition of academic and professional competences for students, faculty and administration and services staff involved in our mobility programmes.

Where face-to-face teaching activities are fully suspended, section 7 ("National and international mobility students") of the University of Oviedo's governing council agreement of 24 April 2020 shall apply. It states:

1. The University recommends that inbound mobility students remain at the University of Oviedo for the entire academic year. However, students who return to their home university and, for good reason, do not come back to the University after teaching resumes will be given the opportunity to take remote assessment tests as far as possible. If remote assessment cannot be done, the student will be offered a guarantee that they can take their final exam in person, with the support of their home university's relevant services.
2. Outbound students who are on a mobility programme and who, due to the impact of Covid-19, request to re-join the University of Oviedo's academic activity will be readmitted. Their absence until the time of return will be considered justified and, as far as possible, ongoing assessment activities will be provided. Where the student is unable to carry out these activities, they will have the right to a final exam during the ordinary exam period; this will account for 100% of the grade.

Only Virtual Campus and MSOffice online tools will be used, together with all available facilities as well as any acquired by the university or are freely accessible, so long as this is under the supervision of the Teaching Innovation Centre.