Accessibility to University Library study spaces and group rooms, and activities aimed at groups of children at Bildmuseet and Curiosum due to COVID-19

Background

COVID-19 is currently spreading in society. The university follows the Government’s and the Public Health Agency of Sweden’s directives, guidelines and recommendations regarding COVID-19. Additionally, the Vice-Chancellor reaches decisions on other issues deemed necessary. The university’s ambition is that teaching and examination will continue as planned to the greatest extent possible. At the same time, the University is also working to reduce the spread of disease.

On 18 December 2020, the Swedish Government announced additional national restrictions, which stated that operations run by the government, regions or municipalities that are not deemed absolutely necessary should immediately be closed until 24 January 2021. Furthermore, anyone who has the opportunity to work from home should do so. The Government also announced that all public authorities will be assigned the task to ensure that all non-essential staff must work from home.

On 17 December 2020, the Vice-Chancellor decided on the adjustments necessary to the university and its activities due to the pandemic. This decision is valid between 18 December 2020 and 7 June 2021.

Regarding the University Library, the decision states that “The Umeå University Library is still open but additional measures may be necessary to further reduce the risk of infection”. Regarding public events, the decision states that “Bildmuseet and Curiosum may still carry out activities aimed at pre-school children and children at school given that the Public Health Agency of Sweden and the Swedish Government’s guidelines, regulations and general advice and the current situation with regards to COVID-19 allow that such activities continue”. (Reg. no: FS 1.1-2617-20).

As a result of the government’s announcement on 18 December 2020 and with the purpose of reducing the spread of COVID-19, the Vice-Chancellor decided on 21 December 2020 to assign to the library director to limit accessibility to the premises of the University Library. This decision also included a withdrawal of the exceptions previously made for the activities at Bildmuseet and Curiosum aimed at groups of pre-school children and pupils. Hence, no activities aimed at these groups were allowed within the validity period of the decision. The decision followed the government recommendation and was valid until 24 January 2021. Based upon a continually high level of infection in society, and to respond to the requirements necessary due to the current situation, it is deemed necessary to extend the decision until 28 March 2021.

This decision may be revised if new or updated national or local guidelines and general advice are issued.

Decision

The Vice-Chancellor has reached the following decision to be valid from 18 January 2021 until 28 March 2021.

- Study spaces in the University Library and the Medical Library as well as group study rooms in Universum will be closed. This does not include the bookable resource rooms available to students with a need for reading and writing support.

- The library director may decide on limiting opening hours for the university libraries.
• It is no longer possible to book group study rooms.

• The libraries are open for loans and returns as well as access to reference literature.

• The exception made for activities at Bildmuseet and Curiosum aimed at groups of pre-school children and pupils is withdrawn. Hence, no such activities are allowed within the validity period of this decision.

This decision was reached by Vice-Chancellor Hans Adolfsson after presentation by Academy Clerk Daniel Andersson.

Hans Adolfsson
Vice-Chancellor

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The University Library
Faculties and the Umeå School of Education
Student unions
University Administration