



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

Decision regarding 30 September until 1 November 2021 as a result of COVID-19

Background

COVID-19 is currently spreading in society. A national vaccination campaign is underway and the conditions can rapidly change. The university follows the directives, guidelines and recommendations regarding COVID-19 issued by the Swedish Government, the Public Health Agency of Sweden and Region Västerbotten. Additionally, the Vice-Chancellor reaches the decisions deemed necessary. The university revises its decisions if new recommendations from the Government, the Public Health Agency of Sweden and Region Västerbotten allow or require such revisions. The university's objective is that teaching and assessment can be carried out with maintained high quality. At the same time, the university is also working to reduce the spread of disease. Decisions are made based on continuous dialogue between the university and the Department of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention at Region Västerbotten. The university aspires to return to on-campus activities at the end of 2021, with a gradual return during the autumn. High vaccination coverage among staff and students is an important condition for this return.

On 27 April 2021, the Vice-Chancellor decided on the measures and adaptations for the start of the 2021 autumn semester (FS 1.1-821-21), valid until 29 September 2021. On 18 August, the Vice-Chancellor reached a decision regarding the necessary adaptations for the period thereafter, 30 September until 1 November 2021 (FS 1.1-821-21). On 7 September, the Swedish Government announced an introduction of stage 4 in their plan to phase out many remaining national COVID restrictions from 29 September 2021. This means that most of the restrictions that were introduced to minimise the spread of infection will be removed from this date. Included in this, is that the Public Health Agency of Sweden's recommendations on working from home are lifted and a gradual return to the workplace can be initiated. Some national recommendations will remain in place after 29 September, maintaining distance between people, staying at home in the event of illness and maintaining good hand hygiene, for instance.

Due to the removal of the national restrictions, the university's decision from 18 August 2021 regarding the period 30 September until 1 November needed to be revised. No demands will be set on staff to replan the setup for already ongoing or planned courses.

This decision replaces the decision reached on 18 August (FS 1.1-821-21) and covers the period from 30 September until 1 November, which constitutes the second of four semester periods of 7.5 credits. A new decision regarding the period after 1 November will be announced in October.

Decision

This decision is valid from 30 September until 1 November 2021.

The Vice-Chancellor has reached the following decision:



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General communicable disease control measures

- Those who visit university premises must be careful to follow the Public Health Agency of Sweden's guidelines and general advice to reduce the spread of disease and maintain a safe distance to others.
- Those who experience symptoms – even mild ones – must stay at home according to the Public Health Agency of Sweden's and Region Västerbotten guidelines.

Teaching

This section covers education on all levels – university entrance qualification level, Bachelor's and Master's levels, and doctoral education.

- teaching with physical attendance is now possible,
- Students who are to carry out a placement, thesis project, clinical training, teaching placement or similar must follow the guidelines and recommendations issued by the host organisation.

Examination

This section covers education on all levels – university entrance qualification level, Bachelor's and Master's levels, and doctoral education.

- Examination can take place online or through other adapted formats that do not involve physical attendance under the condition that legal certainty can be maintained and that reasonable demands on quality can be satisfied.
- The Examination Services at the Campus Services Office is instructed to schedule examinations to more days of the week than usual if deemed necessary.
- When necessary, in order to schedule examinations, the Examination Services can demand that the duration of a written hall examination is limited to a maximum of four (4) hours. In cases when it is not possible to limit a written hall examination to a maximum of four (4) hours with regards to legal certainty and reasonable quality, the already scheduled examination may be moved to another time. If a written hall examination is to be rescheduled, the decision must be documented according to the instructions provided in the template (for rescheduling course, course module or examination) and students are to be notified as soon as possible.
- Each dean has the authority to decide on the formats for and implementations of public defences of doctoral theses.

Deviations from syllabi and rescheduling of course or examination

- On 22 June 2021, the Vice-Chancellor reached a separate decision regarding the possibility to make deviations from course syllabi regarding formats for teaching and assessment (FS 1.1-821-21).
- Decisions can be made to reschedule a course, course module or examination, or make a deviation from a programme syllabus to reduce the risk of infection if no other solution is possible. Such a rescheduling can take place within the 2021 autumn semester or to

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another semester, primarily to the 2022 spring semester. Such decisions can be made in a revised order to the one described in the Vice-Chancellor's delegation of authority. Prior to making a decision to reschedule a course, course module or examination, a student representative must be consulted if possible. The Vice-Chancellor is hereby delegating to deans and the director of the Umeå School of Education to reach such decisions. This delegation of authority may be further delegated. Such further delegation of authority must be documented, archived and notified to the relevant student union and the students concerned. Decisions must also be reported to the Faculty Board or to the board of the Umeå School of Education at their next assembly, at which point it must be noted in the minutes. Decisions to reschedule a course, course module or examination, and make deviations from a programme syllabus, must be documented according to a set template. Particular consideration must be taken for international students.

- A course, course module or examination can be rescheduled outside of regular term time. Deans and the director of the Umeå School of Education have the authority to reach such decisions. This authority may not be further delegated. Prior to making a decision to reschedule a course, course module or examination, a student representative must be consulted if possible. The person who makes decisions to reschedule a course, course module or examination is responsible for ensuring that the decision is documented and archived, and that the relevant student union and all students concerned are informed. For students who cannot partake in a course or course component scheduled outside of the regular term time, another opportunity must be offered within the regular term time, in spring semester 2022, that is. Before rescheduling, potential entry requirements for courses that are part of a study programme must be considered. Particular consideration must be taken for international students.

Travels, meetings and events

- Business travel may be implemented. The traveller must stay informed and follow international, national and regional guidelines regarding travels.
- Meetings with physical attendance may be implemented,
- Events may be implemented in university premises.
- Student unions are urged to observe applicable national and regional recommendations and guidelines, follow the development of the spread of COVID-19 and adapt current guidelines when implementing information campaigns about union activities and performing other activities.

Staff and employment

- All employees have the possibility to work from the workplace. Managers must, in dialogue with their staff, plan for a gradual return to the workplace. The guideline is that the gradual return must be completed by 31 December at the latest.
- Umeå University must continue to follow the Swedish Work Environment Authority's interpretation stating that employers can voluntarily remove the requirement for staff to produce a doctor's certificate for day eight until fourteen of illness if there are 'specific reasons'.



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Other university organisations

- The Umeå University Library, including its study spaces and group rooms, will be open.
- A decision regarding Bildmuseet and Curiosum has been reached separately by the Vice-Chancellor on 20 April 2021 (FS 2.10-837-21).
- The Swedish Scholastic Aptitude Test may be implemented in university premises in accordance with special agreements set up with the Swedish Council for Higher Education (UHR) and based upon the requirements for special measures stated therein.

Delegation

- The validity of the decision reached on 28 April 2020, including later revisions, has been extended – Delegation of authority due to COVID-19 (FS 1.1-973-20). This means that the appointments, delegations and adjustments regarding limitations and prohibitions of further delegations of authority noted in the original decision are still valid without alterations.
- The validity of the decision reached on 19 May 2020 has been extended – Delegation of authority due to COVID-19 – Umeå School of Business, Economics and Statistics (FS 1.1-973-20). This means that the adjustments regarding limitations and prohibitions of further delegations of authority noted in the original decision are still valid without alterations.

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

Hans Adolfsson
Vice-Chancellor

Send to
Faculties and the Umeå School of Education
University Administration
Umeå University Library
Student unions
Trade unions