

Dear partners,

As you are aware Spain, as well as other countries are implementing restrictions on borders in order to try and cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. Spain is now under a “state of alarm” called by the [Spanish government](#), which includes the ban to travel and walk/drive in/between cities unless this is justified (eg. because you are going to a supermarket to buy food, to the doctor's, to your apartment). This means that you have to stay at home. All restaurants, bars, pubs, gyms, sports centres and shops are now closed. Pharmacies, gas stations, kiosks and food stores are open as usual.

Besides, all educational centres and facilities have been closed from Monday 16th until further notice. Our Rector has addressed all students at the UVigo in [this letter](#), where they are all recommended to stay connected as usual (such as [Faitic](#)/Moodle) in order to receive any news from their professors, since teaching activities will be guaranteed using virtual platforms and only face-to-face learning will be suspended. A new [Remote Campus](#) has already been launched. Students at UVigo will be granted to continue their evaluation and assessment rights, including those regarding mobility.

This situation will not affect the duration, status, scholarship or Social Security obligations of any students benefiting from any bilateral exchange call launched by the UVigo (bolsas propias), including all kind of scholarships (training, studies, mobility...).

Regarding Erasmus+ mobilities, conditions will be subject to any decision taken by [SEPIE](#), our National Agency.

Neither the Universidade de Vigo or any other University in Spain have cancelled exchange programmes. We are aware these exceptional measures are challenging for all of us. From the UVigo we are working to support all current and future incoming students, while following the authorities' guidelines in order to try and contain the virus and avoid further infections.

We will keep you up-to-date regarding any new measures as soon as we receive them. In the meantime, we would like to ask students to stay at home, follow the [WHO recommendations](#) (keep their hands clean at all times), and to not go to hospital if they suspect they may have symptoms, but to call 900 400 116 and explain the situation to our Health authorities, who will inform them on how to proceed.

Some partner universities are advising students to return to their home countries. The UVigo recommends them to avoid travelling and remain on site, and contact us to inform us about their situation. However, we fully understand if your students prefer to return home. Either way, they will have Access to the same online learning measures and the UVigo will provide all Exchange students with the corresponding document stating their mobility dates and explaining the exceptional circumstances. In any case, we recommend students to contact the embassies and/or consular services in their home country and keep abreast of any developments that may occur.

All figures and updated information about the COVID-19 in Spain may be checked [here](#). Even though these numbers reflect a very significant increase in the impact of the virus on the population and suggest that its peak has not been reached yet, the situation in Galicia keeps on being relatively better than in other areas in Spain.

You can also read reliable information in English about the COVID-19 in Spain through the international version of the Spanish journal El País: <https://english.elpais.com/>

Updated information is also available at the UVigo website: <https://www.uvigo.gal/universidade/comunicacion/novas/teledocencia>

The Galician Health Authorities have launched an ad hoc platform for the population to use in case they suspect they may be infected, available [here](#) (only in Spanish), and where official updated information may also be checked.

We inform you we have enabled a specific e-mail account for COVID-19-related enquiries [emerxencias@uvigo.es](mailto:emerxencias@uvigo.es) at the disposal of our partners and so students can inform us about their situation.

A telephone number has also been enabled 24/7 exclusively in case of emergencies +34 609585596.

In addition, 2 public communication channels on Telegram are also available to offer our incoming and outgoing mobility students a quick and efficient way to communicate with us. We would kindly ask you that, If you are now in contact with your students currently at our university, to Inform them about the Importance of joining this channel, if they have not already done so.

<https://t.me/INCOMINGUVIGOCOVID19>

<https://t.me/OUTGOINGUVIGOCOVID19>

We are also available for a videoconference on demand should you need so.

Aiming at contributing to a more rational use of the email, **some Spanish Universities have created a collaborative document to collect all the updated information from partner universities**, without the need of requesting/sending it.

Therefore, we would like to invite you to fill this very simple [form](#), where you would only have to provide the following info:

- Name of your University
- Erasmus Code (if applicable)
- Link to a reference webpage for other partners to check your information on COVID-19.
- Email (this information will not be publicly displayed and is only requested to allow you to edit your response after submitting it).

The collected information will be publicly available in this [spreadsheet](#). If necessary, universities will be able to edit their own answers afterwards.

Finally, we invite you to send this form to your own partners, in order to make the resulting document as useful as possible.

In case you want to send your own invitations, we suggest that you allow 24 hours (11 am CET of March 18, 11 am CET of March 19, etc.) before you send them. That way you can check in the spreadsheet if your partners have already provided their information.

Thank you very much for understanding this challenging situation ahead of us. We thank you once again for your cooperation and remain at your disposal for any further information you may need.

Best regards,

María Isabel Doval Ruiz

Vice Rector of Social Responsibility, Internationalisation and Cooperation

Universidade de Vigo

