

Provisional Regulation on a Supplement to the Regulations of 28 October 2020, no. 2474 Relating to Studies and Examinations at Nord University – extraordinary measures as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic

Adopted by the Board of Nord University on 16 December 2020 pursuant to the Act of 1 April 2005, no. 15 on Universities and University Colleges, Sections 3-3, subsection 3, 3-7, 3-8, subsection 1, and 3-9, subsection 7.

Section 1. Purpose

- (1) This Regulation will give the university the scope to make the necessary and appropriate amendments to the implementation of its programmes of study. This Regulation will ensure to the greatest extent possible that students at Nord University are able to receive and complete their education without delay due to circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic.
- (2) This Regulation applies in addition to the Regulations of 28 October 2020, no. 2474 Relating to Studies and Examinations at Nord University. In the event of discrepancy, this Regulation will take precedence.

Section 2. Forms of assessment

- (1) The faculties may convert forms of assessment that require physical attendance into digital forms of assessment if so required in order to implement examinations and infection control measures, etc. Only changes that are necessary and justified may be undertaken. New forms of assessment must ensure that students' learning outcomes can be tested and assessed on an impartial and academically sound basis, while also safeguarding the academic standards for individual courses of study.
- (2) If it is not possible to test and assess the student's learning outcomes on an academically sound basis without physical attendance, and normal implementation is contrary to the applicable infection control measures, the examination must be postponed. The faculties must ensure that any students who are delayed on these grounds are able to take their examinations as soon as this is possible.
- (3) The access to change the forms of assessment pursuant to this provision solely applies to examinations to be taken during the term of validity of this Regulation.
- (4) Amendments to digital forms of assessment will be maintained even if the grounds for the amendment are no longer present. In special circumstances, the Rector may grant exemptions from this provision.

Section 3. Academic calendar, teaching periods and examination periods

- (1) If infection control measures require changes to the planned teaching arrangements, the faculties may extend the teaching period for independent course units by up to three weeks, in order to complete postponed and necessary learning processes.
- (2) As far as possible, the faculties must seek to arrange to hold examinations on the originally scheduled examination dates.
- (3) In cases where the transition to digital forms of assessment entails changes to the form of assessment or releases a need for assessment at another time, the examination date may nevertheless be changed. The same applies in cases where extension of the teaching period means that the organised learning processes are too close to or fall later than the originally scheduled examination date. A new examination date must be scheduled in consultation with the Examinations and Academic Records Section.

Section 4. Submission deadlines

- (1) If special circumstances make this necessary, the faculties may extend the submission deadlines for MA, bachelor's and master's theses, as well as similar final assignments

amounting to a minimum of 15 credits, by a period of up to two weeks from the originally scheduled deadline.

- (2) Decisions to extend submission deadlines in accordance with this subsection must be made specifically for an individual course and must apply to all candidates enrolled for the course.

Section 5. Grading

- (1) When absolutely necessary due to conditions arising from the coronavirus situation, the faculties may extend the deadline for announcement of grades by up to two weeks from the deadlines otherwise stipulated in the Regulations relating to studies and examinations at Nord University. However, this will not apply to final examinations in degree study programmes.
- (2) In special cases due to circumstances relating to coronavirus, the requirement for two examiners to be present at individual examinations at first cycle degree levels may be waived if this makes it possible to complete an examination. This will only apply in cases where this is not contrary to the law and where this consideration cannot be remedied by extending the deadline for the announcement of grades under 1, and only for as long as the requirement of impartial and academically sound assessment can be upheld. Any decisions pursuant to this provision will be taken by the Rector.

Section 6. Compulsory requirements, arrangement, absence from examinations and deadlines for withdrawal

- (1) Where a course description sets out requirements for compulsory attendance, approved coursework requirements or other requirements to take an examination, students may nevertheless be permitted to take the examination without having fulfilled these requirements. In such cases, the student must be required to fulfil these requirements before a fixed date, for the examination result to be deemed valid. The faculties will make arrangements for students to be able to fulfil any such requirements as soon as possible.
- (2) When changes in the form of assessment are made after the application deadline for arrangement of the examination, and these changes require a change in the need for arrangement of the examination, the student must apply for this as soon as possible, and by no later than one week before the examination.
- (3) The Rector may permit self-certification of absence from examinations in the spring of 2021. If self-certification of absence is activated, any self-certified absence must be accepted as legitimate absence from the examination. The Rector will stipulate how self-certification of absences is to be submitted.
- (4) Candidates may withdraw from examinations no later than two days before the examination without this being counted as an examination attempt. Candidates may withdraw from submitting a master's thesis up to the submission deadline.

Section 7. New examinations

- (1) All students who were qualified to take an examination in the autumn semester of 2020 may be granted the opportunity to take a new examination. This special opportunity to take a new examination will solely apply to the first examination attempt following the ordinary examination, and will not apply beyond 30 June 2021.
- (2) All students who qualify to take an examination in the spring semester of 2021 may be granted the opportunity to take a new examination. This special opportunity to take a new examination will solely apply to the first examination attempt following the ordinary examination, and will not apply beyond 31 December 2021.
- (3) The opportunity to take a new examination pursuant to this subsection will not apply to MA, bachelor's and master's theses.

- (4) The normal limitations to the number of examination attempts will apply to the opportunity to take a new examination pursuant to this subsection.

Section 8. Study progression requirements

- (1) If students do not fulfil the progression requirements for their programme of study as a consequence of coronavirus-related circumstances, the faculty may grant an exemption from the requirements.
- (2) If an exemption is granted, students may be required to fulfil the progression requirements within a certain time before official decisions are taken to revise individual education plans.

Section 9. Conditional offers of admission

- (1) Students who in principle are due to complete their education in the spring semester of 2021 may receive a conditional offer of admission to master's degree programmes and further education programmes at Nord University with start dates in the autumn of 2021.
- (2) Students who are granted conditional offers of admission will be required to fulfil their admission requirements by no later than 31 December 2021, in order to remain enrolled on their new programme of study. In cases where the student does not fulfil the admission requirements prior to this deadline, any examination results recorded for the new programme of study will be disregarded.
- (3) The Rector may draw up further guidelines concerning conditional offers of admission.

Section 10. Entry into force

- (1) This Regulation enters into force 1 January 2021 and will remain in effect up to and including 30 June 2021.
- (2) Temporary Regulation of 11 June 2020, no. 1342 on a Supplement to the Regulation of 31 January 2019, no. 63 Relating to Studies and Examinations at Nord University – extraordinary measures as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic, is repealed with effect from 1 January 2021.