

## Status of the LLMs & MPHIL 15/03/2020 CORVID

1. **Need for an open, clear channel of communication to handle urgent situations**, such as an international student first held Gardemoen in quarantine and subject to distress because all information was in Norwegian. Now he is in quarantine in the student home in Krinsjå. At least two LLM directors have given their phone numbers to the students to answer queries or open a line of communication in difficult situations.
2. **Need a mechanism for tracking students whereabouts**. Options include that they report to Masters Program Directors, or administration by email when they leave Norway and inform about where they are moving.
3. **Need for a specific nettskjema for the international students**: UiO only has a nettskjema that applies to Norwegian students studying abroad: <https://nettskjema.no/a/personaldeclaration.html#/page/1> It has no nettskjema to identify international students returning home, traveling to third countries, or remaining in Norway in the event of an emergency. We need a specific form to collect this information and update it as the situation unfolds. Tobias has created a nettskjema for the Masters students. The Faculty should consider whether they want to extend it to ERASMUS and other exchange programs.
4. **Need for UiO to ensure that non-Norwegian speaking students receive up to date info on restricted travel to and from Norway**
5. **Need to delay delivery date for thesis delivery.**
6. **Need to have psychological support available to international students separated from their families over an extended time.**

### General overview of LLMs and MPhil actions:

#### Maritime LLM

Trond has a "tillitsmann" (student elected representative) for the LLM who is checking what the students' intentions are with respect to whereabouts.

**Quarantine:** One Bangladeshi student was quarantined at Gardermoen and was in despair because most messages were given in Norwegian only, but he/she called the "tillitsmann" and was comforted. He had been on vacation to Wien is in contact with the tillitsperson but Trond will establish direct contact. Another - a Norwegian LLM - is at home in quarantine, in Oslo, after having visited a ship in Sweden with foreigners onboard (the visit part of his part-time assignment at a shipowning company). The rest are as far as Trond knows under no quarantine and at their respective homes in Oslo, and one in Bergen.

**Exams:** The await notice from the Faculty on the form, time, etc.

**Thesis:** There are no particular problems with finding a thesis advisor, etc.

#### HUM MPHIL

Peris wrote to all the students first thing Thursday morning with information on how the measures will effect them:

**Courses/deadlines** - Home exams, deadlines may be changed.

**Internships:** Many begin April - so we have advised students to delay and Peris contacted some employer/organizations about this - that students should avoid work places for now.

**Dissertations:** May extend deadline

**Travel:** Peris has asked the students to report 1) course related activities - where are they and what are there plans? I.e are any doing field work. He has written specifically to all the dissertation students - and of those who replied they have made plans to return ASAP 2) exchange students 3) non course related travel - do we need to know?

Peris sent <https://www.uio.no/english/studies/semester-abroad/safety-abroad/> to the students and asked them to register within the nettsjkema.

## **ICTL LLM**

Tobias conducted an information meeting on Friday and students were generally concerned about the overall situation, their upcoming exams, and currently applicable deadlines. He was not able to answer all their queries, but will be coordinating with course leaders. He offered to help students in distress, and will continue to do so on follow-up meetings on Monday. He sent his cell phone number to students, so they can confer with him if there are problems (extending my visiting hours). We have to consider extending deadlines for draft papers etc., and have already extended one deadline. He told the students we are in principle open to extending deadlines, but that this will lead to further repercussions down the road. Given that they are all more or less equally affected, he told them that we are not expecting the Corona situation will create unfair disadvantages, but that we will pragmatically handle challenges, in dialogue with the students.

## **PIL Masters**

Cecilia emailed the students to inform them of the transition to digital teaching and encouraged them to let her know whether they were returning to their home countries, travelling to third countries, or remaining in Norway. She sent them her phone number and let them know that they could contact her to discuss concerns or difficulties. Presentations on Thesis writing are postponed. Assignment of advisors is postponed. One student returned to the US, one to Wales, one is in Denmark, another is in Norway. We are awaiting reporting from the remaining students. She sent the same form Peris sent, although she does not find it applicable to our students' current situation.