

**This message is addressed to PhD programme coordinators, support personnel and Doctoral School staff members**

*Dear members,*

*The UAB Governing Team has announced the stoppage of all on-site classes at Catalonia's universities starting tomorrow, Friday 13 March. We hereby inform you of the exceptional measures that will be put into effect for the duration of this lockdown:*

- 1) During the period in which all on-site academic activities are suspended, we are NOT obliged to suspend thesis defenses. Therefore, we will continue to hold thesis defenses on-site if it is considered suitable by all those implied.*
- 2) We have made flexible the maximum period between the deposit and defense of the thesis. This measure aims to facilitate any postponement of thesis defenses in those cases in which all those implied consider it necessary to hold the defense after this suspension period has ended. The opinion of the Doctoral school is that this would be the best option.*
- 3) We have made more flexible the regulations governing the use of video-conference systems for those cases in which the thesis defense cannot be postponed or one of the panel members cannot be present later on.*

*3.1) We have increased to 2 the number of panel members who can connect via video-conference, "Skype", and other alternative systems such as the "Team" application. We have also eliminated the restriction on not allowing the secretary or the president of the panel to connect remotely.*

*3.2) It is indispensable that the PhD candidate be physically present in a room open to the public and accompanied by at least one member of the tribunal in order to be able to proceed with the thesis defense. This room must be large enough to guarantee at least 1 metre of space between each of the attendants. The room must also have suitable technical equipment to allow for a correct connection with the panel members who are not physically in the same room as the defendant.*

*3.3) In the case of online thesis defenses, candidates must first apply for permission with the Standing Committee (Junta Permanent), as stated in the instructions found in <https://www.uab.cat/web/estudiar/doctorat/junta-permanent/sollicituds-1345790710835.html>. The Doctoral School will review the petition and proceed to sending the specific documentation necessary to defend a thesis online. The Standing Committee's administrative calendar is not in force during the lockdown and therefore petitions will be resolved on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please remember that voting for the Cum Laude will be done online once the Doctoral School receives the two defense records and original reports from the members who are not at the UAB.*

- 4) On-site classes associated with the Doctoral School's training activities or PhD programmes are hereby suspended. These training activities, according to what is determined by the organisers, may be postponed or held through video-conferences. The organisers will be in charge of informing students on how to proceed in each case.*

*We remain at your disposal for any doubts or questions you may have.*

*Best regards,*

Dr Inma Ponte Marull  
Academic Secretary of the UAB Doctoral School

Management Team

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