Executive Decision of the SUPSI Directorship of 22 April 2020 for the management of degree courses following the COVID-19 pandemic containment measures¹

Approved by the SUPSI Directorship on 22 April 2020

¹ In the case of conflicting meanings between language versions, the Italian version prevails.
SUPSI has set itself the goal of enabling all students to complete the 2020 spring semester, despite the special conditions posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the related containment measures which are continuously updated by the cantonal and federal authorities.

This Executive Decision provides the extraordinary legal basis for the management of the degree courses during the COVID-19 pandemic. It regulates in particular the exceptions to the regulations, directives and curricula currently in force for Bachelor, Master and Diploma degree courses provided by the four departments of SUPSI.

The implementation of this Executive Decision and the related coordination of the degree courses are taken over by the SUPSI Degree Course Strategy Group, which is coordinated by the Director of the DFA (Department of Education and Learning). The group usually meets once a week to gather feedback, requirements and critical issues of the degree courses. The group draws up budgets and decision proposals on a weekly basis for the SUPSI Directorship.

SUPSI makes the software and educational resources necessary to carry out distance learning activities available to all teachers. To this end, a permanent working group composed of training specialists from the various Departments and Central Services, coordinated by the Director of the DFA, has been set up.

In particular, in addition to the services already normally available, two courses on the iCorsi platform are made available to teachers and students with teaching resources and technical and didactic-pedagogical support, a technical support service for teachers and students and a didactic-pedagogical consulting service for teachers.

The technical tools made available to teachers and supported by SUPSI's IT Services are: iCorsi (teaching platform), Panopto (tool for making videos), Microsoft teams (tool for collaborative work at a distance).

The use of other tools is allowed provided that they can be accessed by iCorsi (e.g. through a link), that current copyright and personal data protection laws are respected, that the teacher has the relevant licenses and that he or she is autonomous in their use (no technical support will be provided in this case).

On the basis of the foregoing, which forms an integral part of this Decision, the following is established:

1. The validity of the suspension of the lessons of all SUPSI's degree courses from 7 to 22 March 2020 inclusive and the related granted exceptions is confirmed.
2. From 23 March 2020 until the end of the 2020 spring semester, all SUPSI degree courses are provided on a distance learning basis. From that date, certifications also take place remotely. Exceptions may be granted by the SUPSI's Directorship for educational activities carried out individually or in small groups that can in no way be carried out remotely. In case of easing of the measures before the end of the semester, exceptions for laboratories, professional practice modules and certifications may be approved by the SUPSI Directorship.
3. During the period of distance learning, students do not have access to SUPSI campuses. Exceptions may be granted on a one-off basis.
4. Degree courses calendars can be adapted according to new needs. The end of the semester can be postponed by a maximum of two weeks compared to that scheduled.
5. In exceptional cases, with the approval of the SUPSI Directorship, up to two weeks of summer school can be organised after the end of the semester for the recovery of modules with a highly practical-applicative character.
6. The Easter holidays, which took place regularly according to the calendar, and the public holidays provided for in the regular calendar should be maintained.
7. Each course or module has a page on the iCorsi teaching platform (moodle). The page in iCorsi is the only gateway for students to access the course materials: teaching materials and links to external resources.

8. The weekly workload of students studying remotely must be comparable with what would have been expected beforehand and must be coded using a similar timetable to the one that would have been applied before.

9. Synchronous activities must be carried out within the timetable for the respective course. Asynchronous activities must be made available to students at the latest by the beginning of the weekly lesson scheduled in the timetable.

10. The overall workload associated with the ECTS provided for the individual modules shall be respected.

11. The learning content and objectives of the curricula should be pursued, as far as possible, also in the distance-learning mode.

12. The educational forms and certification methods can be changed with respect to what is set out in the study plan to make them more suitable for the new working conditions. The changes are published on the iCorsi page of each module or course, or communicated centrally by the secretariats of the various degree courses by mid-May 2020. Students will be asked to enrol for the certification of the various modules; upon enrolment the student will confirm his or her agreement with the certification procedures and his or her commitment to strictly comply with the SUPSI Training Agreement (https://www.supsi.ch/home_en/supsi/documenti-ufficiali.html).

13. The 2020 spring session and the 2020 autumn session are considered as a single session with two certifications. Students will therefore have the opportunity to present themselves in the spring session and/or in the autumn session. Any failure in the spring session will not be counted. Any failure in the autumn session will instead be counted regularly.

14. This executive decision complements the degree course regulations in force. For everything not covered here, the provisions of the regulations in force apply. This executive decision comes into force immediately and confirms that it will enter into force on 1 March 2020. This remains in force until the end of the pandemic containment measures in the Canton of Ticino, but in any case, at least until the end of the 2020 autumn session. Amendments to the contents of this Executive Decision shall remain reserved depending on the evolution of the health emergency situation.

The SUPSI Directorship, dated 22.04.2020

The President of the Board, Alberto Petruzzella

The General Director of SUPSI, Franco Gervasoni