

Dear students, dear all,

I am writing to you, as more and more questions have been piling up concerning the completion of various student assignments, submissions of seminar papers, diploma theses etc.

If they have not done so already, your teachers will inform you very soon about the changes that they have made in their course syllabi. The concrete details and particularities notwithstanding, let me please assure you that you will be able to successfully complete all your courses, even if their current requirements might differ from the original ones. The decision that there are no deadlines for submission of any assignments during these extraordinary measures (suspension of contact teaching, closure of the library etc.) remains unchanged.

Wherever possible, you may, of course, complete the assignments (and we heartily recommend you to do so), but please do keep in mind that you will not be penalized should you be unable to write or finish your seminar paper due to, for instance, the current closure of the faculty library.

All the deadlines will be postponed until later, once the contact classes have been resumed, and the faculty library reopened. As you know already, the faculty library is closed now and will remain so as long as the distant study measures apply.

Those of you who are finalizing your bachelor, master or doctoral theses are, of course, in a special position. I am fully aware that the deadlines for submissions of your theses' drafts (to pass Diploma seminars, for instance) fall directly into the period of distant study arrangements. Next Monday, at our regular meeting of the faculty leadership, we are going to discuss how, and until when, to extend these deadlines.

At the same time, let me be clear that should the distant study arrangements continue, for example, into May, the faculty will make sure that you can complete, submit and also defend your final theses on new, extra dates either in summer, or in autumn 2020.

Please, let's be patient. The situation is evolving rapidly, for the things are not today what they were yesterday. We will react to the changing situation. Personally, I am prepared for various crisis scenarios. All of this, with one main underlying idea – that none of you, without his/her own guilt, should be damaged by the current situation. I can promise you the most helpful approach from the faculty management.

You are also contacting the faculty and offering your help. The university is already devising a coordinated offer of help, as you know from the rector's letter. While we deeply appreciate your

willingness to help, our assistance is necessarily limited by the fact that – out of legitimate reasons – the faculty building has been closed to the public, including the children. I have another suggestion for you, though. I know how effective help can be in your near vicinity. If you want and can, you might think of people in your own neighbourhood who urgently need help (for instance, with babysitting, or shopping for the elderly, or the sick) and offer them your kind help. It is in this way that we can show that we are good pupils of Masaryk, worthy of his ideals of humanity.

Now is the time to be patient and extra kind to each other and ourselves. We are all smart, flexible and caring people and with patience and understanding we will all get through this together.

Take care and kindest of regards,

Stanislav Balík

Dean