

August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Subject: Letter from the Vice Rector - Update regarding studies during the Corona pandemic

Dear Students,

We write this letter as you prepare for the next academic year in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We hope that you and your families are in good health.

We would like to update you in advance regarding the opening of the academic year, in order to facilitate your own preparation. In addition, we would like to update you regarding the latest COVID-19 guidelines.

1. In an attempt to stem the continued spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Ministry of Health has updated a number of regulations that apply to higher education institutions.

The following are the University guidelines starting from **tomorrow, Wednesday 18/8/2021**, until the beginning of the academic year, unless the University publishes an update earlier:

**Student entry to the campus will be according to the Green Pass**

(<https://corona.health.gov.il/en/green-pass/>) - participation in classes, exams, practical training, laboratories, research laboratories and any other activity is permitted only to students with a Green Pass (vaccinated or recovering) or with a negative result on a recent COVID-19 test. Validity of the tests: PCR tests are valid for 72 hours. Rapid tests (Antigen) are valid for 24 hours. **Entry to the University will be allowed only upon presentation of a Green Pass certificate on the 'Ramzor' phone app or confirmation of a negative result in a recent COVID-19 test, together with presentation of an ID card to a guard at the University gate.** Please note that it will not be possible to enter the University through the turnstiles.

All activities will take place on campus as usual (including exams).

Access to summer courses will be as it has been so far.

Masks must be worn throughout all lessons/activities.

Care must be taken to maintain a distance of no less than two meters between staff members and students.

In the coming academic year, teaching will take place physically in classrooms and not remotely (subject to government directives). If Covid regulations are published restricting students from attending the University (e.g. limiting the number of students in classrooms), classes will be accessed through distance learning, through recorded and printed materials on the course website (Moodle) or through live broadcasts from the classroom. Please note that it is forbidden to photograph, copy, record or distribute any course materials. Any violation could result in disciplinary action.

We would like to encourage you to come to campus and enjoy a personal learning experience. From our experience and student feedback over the past year, being on campus promotes quality learning, enhanced by meetings with classmates, conversations with teachers and colleagues, spending time and studying in libraries, and finally, the ability to enjoy a variety of cultural and social activities.

2. Behavior during the pandemic is dictated by the Ministry of Health and the guidelines vary according to the extent of morbidity and the level of risk. This reality makes it difficult to adhere to the original plan for the academic year and in all probability it may even change during the course of the semester. We will therefore need to make necessary adjustments in real time depending on the situation and based on the experience we have gained in the past year. We are preparing in advance for any situation, so that we might make adjustments as needed. We will update you again in the coming weeks regarding further adjustments and preparations.

In the event of a lockdown, all classes will be taught online through Zoom, except for courses that require physical attendance such as labs and practical training.

We would like to thank the Student Union, who are in continuous contact with us and are working for the benefit of all students during this challenging time. In addition, we would like to thank all the staff who have volunteered to help and to find solutions in order to make sure that all activities and teaching on campus will continue to take place in the best possible way.

With best wishes,  
Prof. Eyal Zisser  
Vice Rector

