



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI FIRENZE

RETTORATO

Piazza San Marco 4, FIRENZE

Florence, May 20th, 2020

Dear Partner,

We hope that you are doing well and are all in good health and spirit, despite the difficulties of this period and we would like to express our gratitude for your continued efforts for the success of our collaboration.

With this email, we want to let you know more about the organization of student mobility in 2020-2021 (from September 2020). Just like you, we are trying to deal with the prevailing uncertainty. However, we are aware that students are getting in touch with you to organize their mobility exactly as your students are getting in touch with us.

UNIFI has taken a number of actions to limit the impact of this crisis on students and staff. All classes and exams have been moved online this semester, including the degree ceremonies.

As we prepare for the fall intake, we are adapting each program to ensure that courses may begin properly. For the time being we are not sure on how the classes will be organized during the first semester, so we are ready for different situations.

We are well equipped with online (distance) synchronous teaching (which will be also recorded to help potential international students and Erasmus). Hence, courses will be available online for instance for students that need extra time to arrive to Florence. Some classes might be blended. If possible, and the health authorities agree, we shall have some classes also in presence, of course maintaining social distancing (1,8 meters between seats). We hope to be able to give you a more precise information in June. But even if we are able to have classes in presence, we will have all the classes recorded and stored in the repository.

Unifi campuses are well equipped to respect health and hygiene restrictions. Furthermore, the health situation in Italy is stabilizing and we recently started a new phase of the exit strategy.

However, no one knows how the situation will evolve nor what impact this situation could have on welcoming exchange students at Unifi next term.

We are happy to continue receiving your students, even if they need to start classes online, and we will work to ensure that every student has a great experience, despite the situation. This is why we are accepting nominations at the moment. Your students intending to come to Firenze in September 2020 can complete the application form according to the procedure explained on the website

<https://www.unifi.it/index.php?module=CMpro&func=viewpage&pageid=10340&newlang=eng> . Many have already done so.

We recommend however that, at least for the moment, they do not buy airplanes tickets and do not book accommodation, unless they can recover the full amount (we have special arrangements with some housing providers that do not request under these special circumstances any down payment).

Social and cultural life may not resume in a normal and usual way in September. And we know how important this is in the Erasmus experience. To what extent life will be “normal” does not depend on us, but we shall do whatever is in our hands to help students to settle well if they decide to come in the first semester. Were they to decide to change semester, we will be happy to accommodate them, by increasing the number of students we accept.

As far as our students are concerned, the Unifi governing body is favoring a shift to the second term 20-21 (starting in January/February). However, some mobilities will be maintained, and you might receive some requests from Unifi students, provided your institution allows them. If not, please let us know and we will adapt the student requests.

In summary, your students (our incoming students) are welcome, even if the conditions of their academic stay are still uncertain. They are also welcome to change semester if this is possible in terms of LA, graduation dates etc. With this respect we shall be very grateful if you could also accommodate possible requests of some of our students to change semester.

Of course, we are happy to answer any further questions you may have.

Sincerely Yours

Giorgia Giovannetti and the International Erasmus Office



PS In the unlikely case that the whole mobility in the first term is virtual, we are thinking of organizing for the “Erasmus incoming students” a short mobility in the second term (in the hope that the Covid.19 crisis will be by then under control) to meet the professors they only “met on a PC”, to meet their fellows in the course, to see how the University of Firenze is integrated in the city (a true civic university) and to be exposed to the range of activities we do, with the help of our multicultural tutors. We hope that your students would appreciate such an initiative.

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