

## Häußler-Combe, Ulrich

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**Von:** Oficina de Programas Internacionales de Intercambio  
<opii@upvnet.upv.es>  
**Gesendet:** Donnerstag, 11. Juni 2020 18:29  
**Cc:** Paula Cardells Mosteiro; Pilar Agusti Campos; Julia Pérez Laserna;  
manferpe@upvnet.upv.es; Gisel Sanahuja; Divina Gracia Conesa; Josefina  
Soler Martinez; Aranzazu Querol Monforte; David Gutiérrez Vañó; Jesús  
Alonso Urbano; jacaldi@upvnet.upv.es  
**Betreff:** UPV update: information on student mobility 2020-2021

*[This is a message from UPV central International Services for all its international partners; Our institution has a largely decentralized structure for exchange agreements and student-staff mobility, with International Offices in each School/Faculty; the purpose of this coordinated message is to avoid multiple emails with the same information coming from different UPV units. Please feel free to respond or to send your queries either to [your usual contact person](#) or to our central services in this email address, as you prefer]*

Dear UPV partner

We are contacting you in response to the Covid19 effects on student exchange programmes at our institution, Universitat Politècnica de Valencia, for the upcoming 2020/2021 academic year. Internationalization is fundamental for our institution and therefore **UPV plans for next year are based on maintaining international activities as much as possible while adapting them to the current circumstances**, keeping health measures and safety of students as the centre of all actions.

**The Spanish Rectors Committee on Internationalization has taken the decision to continue with student exchange programmes under Erasmus+ and self-funded programmes.**

The **Valencian Public Universities** have agreed on the following:

- **Classes next semester will begin on 14<sup>th</sup> September, following a hybrid model: most classes will take place online but there will be some face-to-face teaching in many courses, mostly for practical classes.** Social distancing will be maintained.
- Continuous assessment during the semester will be strongly encouraged
- The Valencian regional Government is designing a protocol about the face-to-face activities in the context of social distancing and smaller groups.

### **Incoming exchange students at UPV in 2020-2021**

Some questions remain unanswered about the capacity of our courses to accept incoming exchange students in the remaining face-to-face classes or activities in the context of smaller groups, necessary to maintain social distancing. We should have more information in the upcoming weeks.

Due to the uncertainties and putting safety first, **we recommend all exchange students to postpone their academic stay with us to the spring-summer semester 2021 (Semester B) as much as possible, in particular students who require a student visa or coming from overseas.** This suggestion does not concern Double Degree students, as we consider them regular students.

**Students who agree to postpone their mobility one semester are strongly encouraged to upgrade their Spanish level during the first semester in order to reach level B1/B2 in all language skills.** This will allow them to enrol in courses taught in Spanish and increase the viability of their study programme at UPV.

**Any change of semester must be reconfirmed / validated by the home university.** If you transfer students to semester B, please check with our International Services before nominating additional students for semester B. Our capacity to host students mostly in only one semester is limited.

**If postponing mobility to semester B is not an option for your students, we are ready to accept them in the winter semester (semester A), as long as they follow health and safety rules and are ready to adapt the circumstances:**

- **Campus life and access to facilities will not be the same** as in normal circumstances.
- The **Valencia Region was not struck as heavily by the pandemic as other parts of Spain.** However, all of Spain underwent a very severe lockdown for over 2 months, much more severe than in other European countries. **We cannot completely rule out a temporary lockdown at some point during next semester.**
- Due to some restrictions in the number of seats in classrooms, registration in **certain courses may not always be guaranteed. Students must be flexible in their choice of courses and have an alternative list.** Their host UPV School/Faculty will negotiate the academic agreement as usual, providing the necessary support and advice in order to set an appropriate study plan for their semester in UPV
- Welcome and orientation meetings will take place online. Our International Services will offer **limited face-to-face support and orientation. Our staff will be fully available remotely.**
- Our university is **ready to go 100% online again if required by the authorities and circumstances.** Should this happen, all courses and exams could take place fully online if necessary. **However,** as mentioned above, **this is not how the semester will begin.** With the exception of a few master's degrees (list not available yet), **courses will not be delivered 100% online. International exchange students are expected to be in Valencia and will NOT be able to follow classes remotely from home unless the hybrid teaching model needs to be transformed into a fully online model at some point during the semester.**
- **UPV does not provide accommodation. Under normal circumstances, students find accommodation quite easily in Valencia / Gandia / Alcoi** in student dormitories or in shared apartments thanks to the information and links we provide and with the support offered by their Mentor students and Erasmus Student Network. This new context may alter the market in unexpected ways.

We understand that your students need to make academic, logistic and financial decisions. We want to underline that **if your students decide to come in September they will have the continuous support of all the UPV international offices** to make sure they are able to complete the semester successfully.

We will soon contact the students from your institution who have already applied to UPV with this information.

### **UPV outgoing students 2020-2021**

**As long as the partner institution agrees, our intention is to keep outgoing mobilities as much as possible, including mobilities starting in August-October.** We will closely monitor the situation with each partner and follow all sanitary recommendations and guidelines.

When necessary, we will accept mobilities starting in virtual mode, with physical mobility starting later on during the semester.

**Nevertheless, we have recommended our students to postpone their mobility abroad one semester (until January-February 2021) in a few cases:**

- If their host university is outside the European Union, Switzerland, Norway or Iceland ; if our students insist on not postponing their study abroad, UPV will allow it as long as the partner agrees and only after our students confirm that they are fully aware of the obstacles (travel restrictions, delayed visas, eventual quarantines, etc.)
- If the partner university plans to offer only 100% online courses for the entire duration of next semester, with no physical mobility at any point.
- If the sanitary conditions in the host country or region are not adequate shortly before departure.
- If authorities in the host country or region have imposed very severe confinement and movement restrictions shortly before departure

**UPV is convinced that internationalization is one of the greatest strengths of higher education in the 21st century. Although mobility has been seriously affected as a result of the global pandemic, we have also witnessed the ability of our institutions to adapt to new challenges, to grow and to propose solutions for the society of the future. This would not be possible without the collaboration and willingness of our partner universities, whom we thank for the collaboration and mutual support.**

**We continue to work on new models of internationalization, as well as on the improvement of the international experience of your students at UPV, who are as important to us as our own students.**

Faithfully



UNIVERSITAT  
POLITÈCNICA  
DE VALÈNCIA

International Exchange Programmes Office (OPII)  
[Universitat Politècnica de València \( E VALENCI02\)](#)

Camino de Vera, s/n  
46022 VALENCIA

Phone. +34 963 87785  
[opii@upvnet.upv.es](mailto:opii@upvnet.upv.es)