

**Information from the Doctoral School in relation to the situation of COVID-19
to PhD students at Nebrija University**

Firstly, I hope that you are in good health and, under the actual circumstances, you can carry out your research and training process in the doctoral program as best as possible.

In addition, I try to give you the most accurate and succinct information possible, although I am aware that you maintain fluid communication with your tutors, directors and doctoral program coordinator:

1.- The Doctorate Commission approved in its last ordinary session an Exceptional Procedure for reading and defence of doctoral theses by videoconference on the measures adopted because of COVID-19. The information can be found on Nebrija University's website: *Escuela de Doctorado>Normativa y procedimientos>Defensa de tesis Doctoral. Normativa* <https://www.nebrija.com/investigacion-universidad/pdf/normativa-covid-nebrija.pdf>.

This is as a consequence of complying with the Third Additional Provision of Royal Decree 463/2020, of March 14th, which declares the State of Alarm in order to manage the health crisis situation caused by COVID-19. It is established that, due to the suspension of the administrative terms, universities will be able to agree strictly necessary measures of organization and instruction as to avoid serious damages regarding rights and interests of interested party.

Although the deposit of new thesis has decreased overall, universities are organizing PhD thesis defences that were previously deposited. In some cases, an online thesis deposit is made in case of the thesis that have been approved by the Academic Commissions of each program. Furthermore, I inform you that both University's Doctorate Commission and Academic Commissions of the PhD programs will continue with their normal operations, relying on videoconferences as to be carried out. If a thesis were to be deposited in this exceptional period, there would be no problem since we have processes and resources to support it.

2.- Regarding the permanence period (both full-time and part-time), it is considered that the suspension of administrative terms during the State of Alarm supposes the correlative extension of the maximum periods of study for doctoral students. This has been corroborated by both the Permanent Commission of the Association of Directors of Doctoral Schools and the Legal Department of the Nebrija University. However, when the State of Alarm would end, we will communicate you detailed information of the specific time that will not be computed.

3.- The doctoral training will continue as we have already done, although we will postpone for the next academic year some workshops to be delivered by guest professors. In case of transversal training, activities will continue on the Blackboard as we have been doing throughout the course. As for specific activities of each program are being presented or we are making the necessary changes so that it can be carried out by videoconference.

4.- In some cases, given the high experimentality of some thesis, the research activity will be disrupted in its planning. Your thesis directors are trying to provide you with other necessary research tasks so you may progress with it during this period.

5.- If necessary, we will provide you with more information in the near future on pending issues such as evaluation of the Annual Plan that will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of RD 99/2011 and which is usually completed in summer months.

6.- Before finishing this communication, I have taken into account the document received last week from the *Madrid+d* Foundation: EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES PROPOSED BY UNIVERSITIES OF MADRID FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020 GIVEN THE EXCEPTIONAL SITUATION CAUSED BY COVID-19, which includes what the Nebrija Doctoral School has already implemented, during this exceptional period. I have also considered the working document of the Ministry for universities, "Reflections on general criteria for the adaptation of Spanish university system given the Covid-19 pandemic, during the 2019-2020 academic year", which excludes any reference to the doctoral level, as is focusing on Bachelor and Master levels of higher education.

From Nebrija Doctoral School, we remain at your disposal for any further information that you might require.

Sincerely,

Director of the Doctoral School
Nebrija University