



Il Rettore

Pavia, 26 April 2020

Dear Colleagues and Dear Students,

this long period, spent mainly at home, leaves a sense of bewilderment towards what is not well understood, but also, and unfortunately, a personal tragedy for more than one of us. The prospect of a recovery in May should be viewed with balanced optimism. Especially in Lombardy, a region so hard hit, caution is needed. But it is equally true that the prevalence of a crippling fear would have devastating effects both from a psychological point of view and from an economic and employment point of view.

It is therefore necessary that our choices allow a gradual recovery but, at the same time, avoid that too many people can attend the same spaces at the same time, not only in the University, but also on public transport and in the city.

For this reason, we have decided to exclude any form of face-to-face teaching until the end of June, as well as degree and profit exams that will continue to be online. Most likely, this suspension will also be confirmed for the month of July.

Vice versa, controlled and safe access to laboratories and other spaces dedicated to research will be allowed.

Although it never stopped, our research has slowed down and, above all, it has been focusing on aspects related to the emergency from Covid-19.

In this regard, I would like to underline how the phase we are experiencing has once again proved that there cannot be progress in the medical field, but also in technological and humanistic-social ones, without deep roots in basic research. For example, the development of effective tests for the detection of anti-bodies, on which much is focused, benefits from fundamental research strands related to other pathologies. This should be remembered first of all to ourselves and then to public decision-makers for a renewed policy in support of the sciences and the university.

Since the resumption of May, always in full compliance with the security measures, holders of grants or research grants and PhD students will be able to access the university again under the guidance of their respective tutors. Students who carry out experiments for the final thesis will follow, but only later. The lending service for books in the library will then restart with the already tested "contactless" methodology. Professors will be able to attend the workshops or similar spaces for which they are responsible, but not to return permanently to their offices, but only temporarily for needs connected with the provision of online teaching. The Crisis Task Force is completing the guidelines which will contain the indications for the safe access and attendance procedures. The Pro-Rector for Research will shortly send a specific message.

The technical-administrative staff and language expert collaborators will continue with the prevailing remote working methods, which have proved more effective than expected, given the modest use that was usually made of them in public administration. In this regard, I renew my gratitude for the generosity and professionalism shown in these difficult days. The opportunity to continue on the path of dematerialisation and administrative facilitation should not be wasted and indeed we will continue convinced. We will continue to guarantee essential administrative services, with a partial increase expected from the controlled restart of laboratory activities. In any case, the personnel involved will be the minimum necessary to carry out the departmental research activities. The recovery for technical-administrative staff will take place in absolute compliance with the new government provisions, expected shortly. As soon as possible, specific information will be sent.



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The need to suspend face-to-face activities has found our university capable of reacting quickly, guaranteeing complete functionality, including the performance of the various exam tests, including written ones. Of all this we must be grateful to the entire academic body of Pavia.

However, there could not have been a clearer occasion to ascertain how much the direct teacher-student exchange, the interpersonal relationship between students, possible only in the presence, are irreplaceable for not only educational but also human growth. I reaffirm, with conviction, the desire to resume face-to-face activities in the next academic year, as soon as the health security conditions allow it.

The uncertainty on the course of the epidemic leads us to consider, however, that online activities will guarantee inclusiveness towards all our students, in particular if coming from another province or region, who could be not allowed to move from there. Therefore, the first semester of the next academic year will take place in a mixed form, both online and in presence, and innovative ways are being studied to propose to our student community and to future students.

On the occasion of the inauguration of the 2019-2020 academic year, I had the opportunity to underline a concept that is particularly dear to me and I still feel it close, even if that day seems far away. In this period, in fact, it is often repeated, and perhaps with a little rhetoric, that a completely different society awaits us. I don't know if this will be true, but I hope that this diversity can also mean that national and local governments, present and future, seriously think about the future of young people who have been guilty forgotten.

Best wishes.

Francesco Svelto
Rector of the University of Pavia