The coronavirus poses unprecedented global public health challenges. It is through individual and collective action that we can find the best ways to protect ourselves and others. The actions of governments and universities are causing great upheaval and, if you are currently far from your loved ones, the situation can be particularly stressful. We have put together here a series of points to help you find answers to your questions and make the right decisions.

1. I am taking courses at a university abroad, do I have to go back to Belgium or stay there?
The spread of the coronavirus affects all countries and similar measures are gradually being put in place all over the world, following the level of spread of the virus.

Among the measures affecting universities, there is a gradual switch by many universities to distance learning activities. These activities can therefore be carried out from any location as long as you have access to the Internet. Each university also puts in place arrangements for those parts of the teaching that cannot be done at a distance (e.g. postponement of certain activities). It is therefore important that you contact the local university to find out what alternative teaching arrangements are in place.

We strongly advise against staying abroad given the deteriorating global health situation. If you are abroad, we therefore strongly advise you to return. Depending on the arrangements made at the host university, you will have the choice between:

→ Continuing to follow the distance learning activities of the host university.
→ Giving up the program abroad and enroll in course activities at UCLouvain (attention: the longer you wait to take this option, the more difficult it will be to catch up with the activities in the program in Belgium, so please check the feasibility of this option with the person who manages your mobility in your Faculty).

If you have reasons for wanting to stay, it is essential that you get in touch with the person who manages your mobility in your Faculty at UCLouvain.

Whatever your choice, it is important that you contact the person in charge of international mobility to inform him or her of your situation and that you keep her informed about any changes in your situation.

Once in Belgium, take care of yourself and others by complying with government and university regulations to limit the spread of the virus. These provisions are mentioned on the UCLouvain site:

In order to get an overview of your current situation, please fill in the form that has been sent to you:
(https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=1JCwei76z068fEEntNWC7BPtC8XVjqBLgsxJA7JG99ZURjFURklzNIBPS043S0ITTDFIWERQTjJGNC4u)

2. I'm doing an internship abroad, do I have to go back to Belgium or stay there?
Measures are also being taken in various institutions other than universities to promote telework and/or suspend certain activities.

We strongly advise against staying abroad given the deteriorating global health situation. If you are abroad, we therefore strongly advise you to return.

If you have reasons for wanting to stay, we ask you to explain your situation with the person who manages your mobility in your Faculty at UCLouvain.

➔ In the event that the internship abroad is maintained but you have a cold or flu symptom been in contact with a person who is infected or has, you must put yourself in a situation of internship incapacity and be couvert with a medical certificate.
➔ If you are unable to complete your internship or if you wish to interrupt your internship to return to Belgium, you must contact your Faculty as soon as possible to find out the provisions in force.

Whatever your choice, it is important that you contact the person in charge of your international mobility to inform him or her of your situation and that you keep him or her informed about any changes in your situation.

Once in Belgium, take care of yourself and others by complying with government and university regulations to limit the spread of the virus. These provisions are mentioned on the UCLouvain site:

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3. I want to go back to Belgium but I don't know how to do it.
Several countries have established mobility restrictions to limit the spread of the virus. Under certain conditions, it may be more difficult to return to Belgium, in particular because transport options become more limited. The situation around the world is changing rapidly and it is important that you consider returning while it is still possible and easy to travel back to Belgium.

➔ If you are Belgian, you will find on the page of the Federal Public Service (FPS) - Foreign Affairs all the instructions and emergency call numbers: https://diplomatie.belgium.be/fr. By following
4. Can I receive financial assistance to return to Belgium?
Financial assistance is available to reimburse certain travel or subsistence expenses that cannot be reimbursed by other means. We invite you to consult the terms and conditions for the management of your scholarship and the terms and conditions for reimbursement on the following web page (intranet):

5. What should I do if face-to-face classes resume later after I have returned to Belgium?
The suspension of face-to-face classes is temporary and it is possible that the universities have not yet made arrangements for the modalities in force after the temporary period. It may therefore not yet be established whether all activities until the end of the semester will be done at a distance or whether there will be a return to face-to-face classes. All universities are working hard to deal with this new situation. So stay alert and attentive to the host university's communications.

If you have returned or are returning to Belgium and it is absolutely necessary to return to the host university or institution at a later date to continue the training or for evaluation, contact the person who manages your mobility in your Faculty at UCLouvain.

6. I am abroad and have symptoms or have been in contact with an infected person.
The first good reflex is to keep your distance from other people and to call a doctor. Your host university/institution has certainly provided you with useful information on this subject.

You can also call your general practitioner in Belgium, since medical consultations in relation to the coronavirus are currently done by telephone.

If you do not have your own doctor, you can call the LAENNEC medical center in Brussels: +32 2 764 57 87 to get medical advice over the phone.

7. I am lost and I don’t know what to do
The most important thing is to take good care of yourself and others. You have certainly received many hygiene instructions to follow. They are also recalled on this webpage: https://uclouvain.be/news-coronavirus

If you have questions related to your training, contact the person who manages mobility in your Faculty.

For questions related to local government arrangements in the country where you are located, contact your local consulate or embassy. For Belgians, you can find the contact address via the Foreign Affairs website: https://diplomatie.belgium.be/fr.

For any health or social questions, please contact the following address: aide-sante@uclouvain.be

Thank you all for your collaboration and we hope to find together as serenely as possible the best arrangements for you in this unprecedented situation.

Vincent Blondel
Rector

Dana Samson
Pro-rector for international affairs