

All students abroad should return home, but NTNU will still help you if you choose to stay

During the weekend, I sent a letter to our students outside Norway urging them to travel home, in line with the advice from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Some students have replied that they would like to stay where they are. I understand this reaction. But I still want to ask you to think through your decision one more time. Unfortunately, the experts in infection control are saying that the coronavirus pandemic will continue to spread worldwide and that it is progressing very fast. In Norway, we have seen the situation changing from day to day and it is difficult to know how long this will last. Nothing suggests that there are countries that will escape, even if they have few people infected so far and a well-developed health care system.

At the same time, many countries have now closed their borders. On the way home to Norway, some of you may also need to connect from one flight to another in places with a higher risk of infection than where you are now, and there may be a real danger of being stuck at an airport.

If you find it a dilemma to decide on the best thing to do, I fully understand.

If you are ill, you should stay where you are. If you are an international master's student and you are in your home country (for example, doing fieldwork), you should stay where you are. For the rest of you, my general advice is still that you try to find a route to travel home. NTNU has an agreement with the travel agency Berg-Hansen, which can help you to book tickets. Contact the agency at billbest.trondheim@berg-hansen.no. Use "Ref. NTNU" in the subject line.

If you choose to stay, I assure you that you will still receive close follow-up from NTNU in Norway. As far as we can, we will help you so that you can safely stay where you are. I would also advise you to contact your insurance company to make sure that your insurance policy covers you under these exceptional circumstances. If you need local help, I recommend that you contact your nearest foreign service mission or Sjømannskirken, the Norwegian Church Abroad.

Whether you choose to travel home or to stay where you are, it is important that you let us know. This is especially important if you have changed your mind during the past few days, for example if you first told us that you want to stay where you are, but now you would like to travel home instead.

Email one of the addresses below, depending on which faculty you belong to.

Sincerely
Anne Borg, Rector

Contact addresses for the faculties:

Faculty of Architecture and Design (AD): studier@ad.ntnu.no

Faculty of Humanities (HF): studieseksjonen@hf.ntnu.no

Faculty of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering (IE): beredskap@ie.ntnu.no

Faculty of Engineering (IV): gunnhild.hatlen@ntnu.no and lars.e.bjorgum@ntnu.no

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (MH): smittevern@mh.ntnu.no

Faculty of Natural Sciences (NV): studier@nv.ntnu.no

Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences (SU): beredskap@su.ntnu.no

Faculty of Economics and Management (ØK): Mona.vanvikmyr@ntnu.no

NTNU University Museum (VM): christen.torvik@ntnu.no

If you are not sure which faculty you belong to, you can first ask the NTNU Office of International Relations; anja.valberg@ntnu.no.