Dear student

The corona pandemic is developing rapidly, and we are in a serious and increasingly unpredictable situation. Today, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (UD) has therefore advised all Norwegian citizens travelling abroad to consider returning home as soon as possible in consultation with their travel agency or airline. At the same time, the Prime Minister has announced that Norwegian airports and harbours will be closed from Monday, but she has also promised that Norwegians will be able to return home.

Recommend that you travel home to Norway
In line with the advice from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I, as NTNU’s Rector, strongly recommend that all NTNU-students who are outside Norway return home. This applies regardless of country.

I ask you to reply urgently to tell us what you are thinking of doing, to one of the addresses listed under the section "Reply to NTNU".

If you need consular assistance, for example if you are facing challenges in travelling home or with travel documents and visas, contact the Norwegian foreign service mission where you are. NTNU also has an agreement with Sjømannskirken, the Norwegian Church Abroad, which allows you to get help from them. Sjømannskirken has a useful app with an overview of all local emergency numbers, wherever you are in the world. The app is free, and you can find it by searching for "sjømannskirken" or "nødnummer" (emergency number) in your app store.
Note that everyone who arrives in Norway from abroad will be quarantined for 14 days.

Avoid getting stuck on the way home
When you plan your return journey, it is important to keep in mind that a number of countries are now closing their borders. If possible, you should avoid travel routes where you might get stuck in another country where conditions are worse and where the risk of coronavirus infection is greater than where you are now. For example, if you had originally planned to stay abroad until the summer and you are in a country with stable conditions and a well-developed health system, it may be best not to travel. If you choose to stay, 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.

Coverage of return journey
If you want to return home and you are staying abroad by agreement with NTNU (placement, practical training, student exchange, etc.) you must check whether your insurance policies cover the costs of your return journey.
If you do not have enough coverage from your insurance, NTNU will pay the additional costs. This will take place after your journey, when you can submit a claim for reimbursement to the university.
If you are travelling abroad for personal reasons, you must use your insurance to cover your travel costs.
Loans and grants will not stop
The Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund (Lånekassen) will continue paying loan and grant funding to students who must return home because of the coronavirus situation. The Ministry of Education and Research will change the regulations on funding for education so that those who, due to the coronavirus, cannot be physically present at the educational institution abroad will still have the right to loans and grants. Follow the Loan Fund's website [lanekassen.no](http://lanekassen.no) for updated information.

Recognition of exchange visits
Many of you have concerns about how you can complete your semester and get recognition for it when you cancel your exchange visit. NTNU will make arrangements for specific recognition of studies in a flexible way. In addition, the university where you are studying abroad may offer digital education that you can follow. We will also make arrangements for students to be granted delayed registration for courses at NTNU.

Reply to NTNU
We ask everyone who receives this email to reply to your faculty (see contact addresses below) about the status of your stay and what plans you have for returning home, or for staying where you are. We also ask you to reply if you are staying in Norway when you receive this email.

We will help you as best we can in this demanding situation, both with organizing your home journey and with other practical challenges. Contact us via the faculty you belong to at the following addresses:

- Faculty of Architecture and Design (AD): [studier@ad.ntnu.no](mailto:studier@ad.ntnu.no)
- Faculty of Humanities (HF): [studieseksjonen@hf.ntnu.no](mailto:studieseksjonen@hf.ntnu.no)
- Faculty of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering (IE): [beredskap@ie.ntnu.no](mailto:beredskap@ie.ntnu.no)
- Faculty of Engineering (IV): [gunnhild.hatlen@ntnu.no and lars.e.bjorgum@ntnu.no](mailto:gunnhild.hatlen@ntnu.no)
- Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (MH): [smittevern@mh.ntnu.no](mailto:smittevern@mh.ntnu.no)
- Faculty of Natural Sciences (NV): [studier@nv.ntnu.no](mailto:studier@nv.ntnu.no)
- Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences (SU): [beredskap@su.ntnu.no](mailto:beredskap@su.ntnu.no)
- Faculty of Economics and Management (ØK): [Mona.vanvikmyr@ntnu.no](mailto:Mona.vanvikmyr@ntnu.no)
- NTNU University Museum (VM): [christen.torvik@ntnu.no](mailto: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](mailto:anja.valberg@ntnu.no).

Please note that NTNU’s physical campuses in Norway are closed until further notice. Keep up to date on the practical implications of this at [www.ntnu.edu/corona](http://www.ntnu.edu/corona).

Take care of yourself
Finally: Take care of yourself and those you love. Keep in touch not only with NTNU, but also with your family in Norway.

Sincerely, Anne Borg, Rector