

STATEMENT CORONAVIRUS – COVID 19

Barcelona, 29 April 2020

Dear student,

First of all, we hope that both you and your family are well. We take this opportunity to thank and congratulate you for the capacity to adapt that you have shown in these circumstances that are so new to us all.

We are sending you this new statement since, finally, we are in a position to be able to provide you with information about the expected developments with relation to the end of term.

On Friday 22 April, [Order EFP/365/2020](#) was published in Spain's Official State Gazette, which lays out the framework and guidelines for action for the completion of the academic year.

The aforementioned Order sets out the **safeguarding of the health of students** in all educational centres as a general principle that will govern the situation with relation to the end of this term and the beginning of the next one. In this sense and, moreover, on this occasion, we can specify some aspects on which decisions have already been taken that affect us as a school. However, we want to emphasise that it is and will be the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, according to the evolution of the virus, to have the last word in deciding whether it is possible, due to health reasons, to execute the decisions taken by the Ministry in the published Order.

The decisions taken in the Order are as follows:

1. **The school year will not be prolonged.** The date of the end of term foreseen in the calendar will be the end date of the academic year. Should the process of de-escalation allow, the Government will authorise support activities, workshops, etc. to be undertaken, carried out within the centre itself after the end of the academic year, or even before the school year comes to an end. However, we insist, this is providing that the Ministry of Health and the evolution of the pandemic itself allow it. Above all, we want to ensure the safety of the whole IED community.

2. **Classes will continue to be held in virtual format**, as has been the case since the beginning of the confinement, and evaluations will be adapted to the new circumstances brought about by COVID 19. Soon, we will send you information about the adjustments to the methodological, content and pedagogical aspects of the course guides of the different subjects.

3. **Evaluation** will be adapted to the new circumstances brought about by COVID 19, and we will inform you in detail about this point with the evaluation criteria. **Nevertheless, IED will ensure the quality of its education and will try, as far as possible, to guarantee the level acquired by its students so that they can complete their education as they would have done if the health crisis had not occurred. If necessary, the results of the first semester will be taken as a reference.**

4. In relation to **internships**, different possibilities have opened up that we will share with you once they have been defined by the Departments of Education of the Autonomous Communities. We can tell you that those students that are currently undertaking internships in **teleworking mode** will be evaluated according to that modality.

5. **Advancement to higher courses.** As far as possible, the Minister of Education has established the progression of students to higher courses as a criterion to be followed. For students in

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their final year, the criterion set by the Minister is to make the criteria for degree certification more flexible, prioritising academic maturity in relation to the general objectives and the professional skills of the degree.

The aforementioned Order also marks the preparation of the 20/21 academic year and its commencement in an in-person format as a priority, based on the favourable evolution of the pandemic.

The Ministry of Education has set up a Committee of Experts so that, in the case that this evolution is not favourable, the experience acquired from the virtualisation of teaching by educational centres can be used to begin the 20/21 academic year in virtual format.

Finally, we wish to transmit that, should the governmental authorities and the Autonomous Communities allow it, **we are ready to welcome you back in person, following all the safety measures that the health authorities stipulate in order to safeguard the health of our students; given the positive evolution of COVID 19.** This situation would allow the academic year to be completed in person, and for the school to open in July for students who wish to attend, or who require support for a better academic continuity towards the next school year.

We look forward to life returning to our schools with great enthusiasm, and are working to ensure that this happens as soon as possible, when the relevant authorities give us the green light.

Thank you once again for the efforts you are undertaking, for continuing to work to achieve your qualifications, and for your support and understanding at this time.

We hope to contact you with further information very soon.

We remain at your disposal to resolve any doubts or receive any comments that you wish to share with us.

Warm regards,

Alessandro Manetti, Director of IED in Spain

Andrea Marchesi, Management of IED Barcelona