



## RECTOR'S DECREE

23.08.2021

Rīga

No. 5-1/434/2021

### **On organisation of the study process under conditions of the spread of Covid-19 infection**

In order to ensure the study, research and scientific activity of Rīga Stradiņš University (hereinafter - RSU) under conditions of the spread of Covid-19 infection, reducing the health risks to students, staff and guests and observing the mandatory epidemiological safety measures and restrictions imposed in the country, as well as taking into consideration the principles of action included in Section 1, Paragraph three, and Section 2, Paragraph one, Clause two of the Law on the Management of the Spread of Covid-19 Infection, Section 36, Paragraph three of the Education Law and Section 4, Paragraph three, Clause 4 of the Law on Higher Education Institutions, and pursuant to the provisions of the Cabinet Regulation No. 662. of 28 September 2021 "Epidemiological Safety Measures to Limit the Spread of Covid-19 Infection" and taking into account the mandatory requirements set out in the country for the on-site implementation and acquisition of the study programmes at higher education institutions, including the right of students to participate in on-site studies only upon presenting an interoperable vaccination or recovery certificate, and the obligation of the higher education institution to ensure the control (verification) of the existence of such certificates:

it is DECREED that:

1. Taking into account the positive experience gained during the pandemic period in achieving the learning outcomes by organising online studies, as well as the need to ensure the control of student flow during on-site studies, the study process shall be carried out on site in the academic year 2021/2022 considering that:

1.1. the study process may be organised remotely up to 50% of the amount of the study programme in social science study programmes;

1.2. the study process may be organised remotely up to 20% of the amount of the study programme in medical and health care study programmes.

2. (Deleted by amendments to the Decree).

3. (Deleted by amendments to the Decree).

**"4. As of 11 October 2021, only people (including administrative and technical staff, as well as service providers who come into contact with students) having an interoperable vaccination or recovery certificate may participate in the implementation and acquisition of the study programme on site, wearing face masks (except in the case of a person staying in the room alone) and, as far as possible, observing social distancing. The educational process and related services at the university and services of official accommodation facilities shall be organised in person in an epidemiologically safe environment.**

4.<sup>1</sup> If a person has received an opinion from a medical expert panel of the clinical university hospital regarding the need to postpone the vaccination of the person against Covid-

19, with a specified deadline for postponing vaccination, then after submitting the aforementioned opinion of the medical expert panel to RSU, an exception may be made by an individual decree relating to the person concerned with regard to the provisions specified in paragraph 4 of this Decree in relation to the deadline specified in the opinion of the medical expert panel, setting out individual epidemiological safety measures.

5. Having assessed the epidemiological situation and considering the specific nature of the study programme, the Dean, in cooperation with the Head of the study programme, may issue a decree regarding implementation of certain study courses (including placements) or modules of the study programme fully or partially remotely ensuring that the quality of studies is not reduced, taking into consideration the provisions laid down in Paragraph 1 of the Decree and informing the Study Department about it.

5.<sup>1</sup> When cases of Covid-19 are confirmed among teaching staff or students, measures shall be taken in accordance with the current conditions specified in laws and regulations and recommendations of the Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (hereinafter - the CDPC). A fully vaccinated or recovered person (with appropriate interoperable certificates) shall not be subject to home quarantine after contact with a person with confirmed Covid-19 infection, but shall be required to undergo a RNA test no later than within seven days. If the test result is positive, the person shall be subject to isolation. If a different procedure for application of home quarantine is established in accordance with the CDPC recommendations or laws and regulations, the recommendations of the CDPC or the requirements of laws and regulations shall be observed. In assessing the epidemiological situation and taking into account the specific nature of the study programme, the Dean may, by informing the Study Department, determine the conduct of a remote study process for a specific study course or group of students. The Dean shall draft and communicate the specific decision in a manner (e.g. notification by e-mail) that ensures immediate notification of the information.

6. The following organisational and epidemiological safety measures shall be introduced into on-site study process:

6.1. The Dean or Head of the Department shall appoint the person in charge of checking the person's compliance with the requirements specified in Paragraph 4 of the Decree.

6.2. The Department of Infrastructure shall provide technical means for the verification of the interoperable certificates referred to in Paragraph 4 of the Decree and that a security guard checks the person's compliance with Paragraph 4 of the Decree in RSU buildings where security guard services are used.

7. The student, lecturer and any RSU employee (hereinafter - the Person) who has been issued a student or employee ID card shall register their interoperable vaccination or recovery certificate in the following way: RSU employees by addressing their immediate manager or Human Resources Department, but students by addressing the Student Services. After registration of an interoperable vaccination or recovery certificate, the existence of an interoperable vaccination or recovery certificate shall be verified on specially installed screening sites checking information from the registration data each time the Person enters RSU premises. The staff referred to in Paragraph 6 of this Decree shall also be entitled to request the additional presentation of an interoperable vaccination or recovery certificate together with a personal identity document or an employee or student ID card.

8. The Heads of the study programmes shall have the duty to ensure that the epidemiological safety requirements and other instructions of the third parties (medical institutions, clinical base units, placement locations, etc.) are strictly followed by RSU and RSU students when carrying out study activities, including placements, at third parties.

9. The International Admissions Office (regarding international applicants) and the International Student Department (regarding international students) shall collect information

about the time of arrival of applicants and students and their residence address in the Republic of Latvia.

10. The Finance Department shall provide analytical accounting of the costs incurred due to the implementation of the precautionary measures related to Covid-19 that RSU has covered from its own financial resources, indicating increase or reduction of costs (compared to the period from 1 August to 31 December 2019) under the following expenditure items and in accordance with the following categories of economic classification of budgetary expenditure:

10.1. remuneration and compulsory social security contributions;

10.2. RSU maintenance costs, which are not specified in Sub-paragraph 10.1 or 10.3 of the Decree;

10.3. expenditure on goods and services;

10.4. capital expenditure.

11. (Deleted by amendments to the Decree).

12. The further academic process at RSU may be changed and planned according to the conditions created by the epidemiological situation and public safety requirements.

13. RSU Student Services shall provide information to the State Education Quality Service regarding the organisation of RSU study process on site and remotely, as well as on specific anti-epidemic measures, if the CDPC has prescribed such to RSU, a particular student or employee, and RSU knows about that.

14. The failure of a student to fulfil the obligations laid down in this Decree may be regarded as a serious breach of the study contract with appropriate consequences, including the possibility to be excluded from the University and the obligation to cover losses and damage to natural and legal persons.

15. The International Student Department, Deans, the Student Union and the Communication Department shall organise an information campaign regarding the measures specified in this Decree and the consequences of non-compliance.

16. Data regarding RSU students in a specific higher education programme shall be exchanged in accordance with the terms and conditions specified in external laws and regulations.

17. With the issuance of this Decree, the Rector's Decree No. 5-1/132/2021 of 8 March 2021 "On further organisation of the study process under conditions of the spread of COVID-19 infection" shall become invalid.

18. The Rector's Office shall acquaint all employees and P.Feldmane, the President of the Student Union's Board with this Decree.

Rector

Aigars Pētersons

R.Osis  
67409135  
S.Kalnmale  
67409226

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WITH A SECURE ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE AND CONTAINS A TIME STAMP