

Dear members of the ESCI-UPF community, including all teaching and research staff, administrative personnel, service staff and students,

Today, Monday 16 March, marks the start of an extremely intense and truly exceptional fortnight. Intense in that we are entering the period of 2nd-term exams, which, like all exams, call for intense concentration and tremendous effort, as well as being the source of understandable anxiety and quiet hope: a time when we want to do our very best. Exceptional because this is the first time we have had to hold exams under such circumstances, with the general population in quarantine and the whole country under a State of Alert, with the result that, wherever possible, we have had to replace face-to-face, on campus activities with online equivalents.

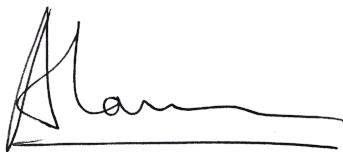
This is completely uncharted territory for all of us at ESCI-UPF. The school's directors and managers, together with its indefatigable human resources teams, will do everything in their power to ensure that these exams are held under the best possible conditions and provide results commensurate with those we might expect to obtain under normal circumstances.

This experience will undoubtedly have profound effects on all of us. Nothing will ever be quite the same again. It may well be the case that the quarantine period has to be extended beyond 29 March and that the 3rd term will begin without any face-to-face activity on campus. We are already taking the necessary steps to deal with this eventuality.

I urge you to take good care of your health and to follow official advice. Remember that home quarantine is designed not only to protect each and every one of you individually, but also to safeguard everyone else in society at large.

As the rector of Universitat Pompeu Fabra says in the closing lines of his letter to the UPF community, *tempus fugit*, or time flies, and we should each strive to make the most of it. We are not on holiday but rather entering a period of concentration and transformation. You are all remarkable people. Keep this in mind as you face these challenging times with courage and resolve.

With my warmest regards,



Albert Carreras
Director of ESCI-UPF

Barcelona, 15 March 2020