

Rector's Order
No. 2/2021 – PR

**Organisation of and conditions applicable to
the educational process and operation
of the Slovak University of Technology in
Bratislava for the Summer term of the academic
year 2020/2021**

Date: January 21, 2021

In Bratislava, on January 21, 2021

No. 2/2021-PR

With regard to the continuing unfavourable epidemiological situation in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with Article 3 (1) (c) of Rector's Directive No. 4/2013 - SR "Rules for Issuing Internal Regulations of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava" of October 3, 2013, the Rector of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (hereinafter referred to as "STU")

is issuing

the following Rector's Order

**Organisation of and conditions applicable to the educational process and operation
of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava
for the Summer term of the academic year 2020/2021**

laying down the following:

Article 1

Organisation of and conditions applicable to the educational process

- 1) The schedule of the academic year 2020/2021 discussed and approved by the Rector's board on January 20, 2020 shall remain unchanged.
- 2) Conduct all educational activities at all levels of studies using the distance method as referred to in § 108e (2) of Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on Higher Education Institutions, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Act on Higher Education Institutions").

Responsible persons: **deans of faculties, Director of the Institute of Management of STU.**

Date: **February 15, 2021 – until further notice.**

- 3) After the measures of the Government of the Slovak Republic and of the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as "PHA SR") have been relaxed and the then-current epidemiological situation has been considered, gradual transition of educational activities from the distance method to the attendance method shall be performed in the following order:

- a) experimental activities conducted in laboratories in relation to performing scientific work and scientific projects in third degree study programmes;
 - b) experimental activities conducted in laboratories by students of final years in second degree study programmes in relation to preparing final theses, and by foreign students participating in internship-type mobility programmes;
 - c) experimental activities conducted in laboratories by students of final years in first degree study programmes in relation to preparing final theses;
 - d) block form of laboratory exercises in first years in first degree study programmes;
 - e) block form of laboratory exercises in other years in first and second degree study programmes;
 - f) attendance form of instruction in the first year in first degree study programmes;
 - g) attendance form of instruction.
- 4) The transition of educational activities from the distance method to the attendance method as referred to in paragraph 3 above shall take into account the accommodation options at STU accommodation facilities depending on the then-current epidemiological situation.
- 5) In order to enable the transition of educational activities from the distance method to the attendance method as referred to in paragraph 3 above, it is necessary to prepare timetables of individual forms of educational activities to ensure the maximum possible feasibility of such gradual transition.

Responsible persons: **deans of faculties, Director of the Institute of Management of STU.**

Date: **by February 10, 2021.**

- 6) Following a justified request from a dean of a faculty or the Director of the Institute of Management of STU, the Rector may agree to a change to the order of the gradual transition of educational activities from the distance method to the attendance method as referred to in paragraph 3 (a) to (f) above, depending on the number of persons staying at STU accommodation facilities at that time and with regard to the then-current epidemiological situation.
- 7) Faculties or the Institute of Management of STU are obliged to conduct educational activities using the distance method as referred to in paragraph (2) above in such a manner as to not jeopardize the quality and scope of education. The quality of the provided education shall be continuously checked by the Vice Rector for education,

mobility and student care (hereinafter referred to as the “Vice Rector”) in cooperation with vice deans for education and the Deputy Director of the Institute of Management for education.

Responsible persons: **deans of faculties, Director of the Institute of Management of STU, Vice Rector.**

Date: **February 15, 2021 – until further notice.**

- 8) Each STU workplace where educational activities take place (e.g. institute, department, etc.), hereinafter referred to as “educational workplace”, shall appoint an employee who will perform the tasks of a technical coordinator for distance education responsible for guiding other employees of the particular educational workplace in the area of distance learning.

Responsible persons: **deans of faculties, Director of the Institute of Management of STU in cooperation with the heads of educational workplaces.**

Date: **February 15, 2021 – until further notice.**

- 9) At the request of a thesis tutor, the study programme guarantor may approve a change to assignment of a thesis by or on March 15, 2021.

Article 2

Dissertation examination and dissertation thesis defence

- 1) Hold dissertation examinations and dissertation theses defences in the Summer term of the academic year 2020/2021 via videoconference or other means of information and communication technology without physical presence as referred to in Article 50a (5) of Internal Regulation No. 4/2013 Study Regulations of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, as amended (hereinafter referred to as “Study Regulations”).

Responsible persons: **deans of faculties, Director of the Institute of Management of STU.**

Date: **February 15, 2021 – until further notice.**

- 2) The public part of a dissertation examination and dissertation thesis defence is also regarded as public if STU ensures its:
- a) live coverage (§ 108 (9) of the Act on Higher Education Institutions);

- b) an audio recording is available to the public to listen to on the premises of STU for three months following the end of the extraordinary situation, emergency situation or crisis situation (Article 50a (6) of the Study Regulations).
- 3) Use available platforms such as AIS, LMS Moodle, Google GSuite, MS Teams or Webex which technically ensure the publicity as referred to in paragraph (2) above for conducting dissertation examinations and dissertation theses defences.

Responsible persons: **deans of faculties, Director of the Institute of Management of STU.**

Date: **February 15, 2021 – until further notice.**

- 4) Accept submission of a final thesis related to a dissertation examination and dissertation thesis in electronic form (Article 50a (4) of the Study Regulations) and request submission of a final thesis related to a dissertation examination and dissertation thesis in paper form as well, namely in one copy, only if this is inevitable for the course of the state examination and the situation allows for production of the final thesis in paper form.

Responsible persons: **deans of faculties, Director of the Institute of Management of STU.**

Date: **February 15, 2021 – until further notice.**

Article 3

Accommodation in STU accommodation facilities

- 1) Persons who were staying at STU's accommodation facilities in the competence of STU's Student Accommodation and Canteens special purpose facility (hereinafter referred to as "accommodation facilities") as of January 1, 2021, may remain at the accommodation facilities. Every time such persons enter the accommodation facilities in the period from January 27, 2021 to February 2, 2021 they are obliged to present a:
 - a) negative result of an RT-PCR test conducted after January 18, 2021; or
 - b) negative result of an antigen COVID-19 test certified in the EU, conducted after January 18, 2021; or a
 - c) document proving that they have recovered from COVID-19, dated not earlier than three months ago.
- 2) Students who were not staying at the accommodation facilities as of January 1, 2021 may re-check in only if their educational activities are transitioning from the distance

method to the attendance method as referred to in Article 1 (3) above. Re-check in conditions shall be determined based on the epidemiological situation at the time of transition of educational activities from the distance method to the attendance method.

- 3) Detailed instructions regarding accommodation conditions and presentation of negative test results shall be issued by the Director of the Student Houses and Canteens of STU's special purpose facility.

Responsible person: **Director of the Student Houses and Canteens of STU's special purpose facility.**

Date: **by January 25, 2021.**

- 4) Measures related to any of STU's accommodation facilities outside the competence of the Student Houses and Canteens of STU's special purpose facility may be ordered, in accordance with the provisions of the present Rector's Order, by the dean of the faculty who is responsible for the particular accommodation facility.

Responsible person: **dean of the relevant faculty.**

Article 4

Organisation and conditions of operation

- 1) Faculties are obliged to ensure the conditions of operation of buildings in accordance with generally binding regulations as well as measures, decisions and recommendations of PHA SR and other relevant state authorities so that current valid hygienic and epidemiological guidelines are followed and scientific and research activities may be performed at the same time.

Responsible persons: **deans of faculties.**

Date: **February 15, 2021 – until further notice.**

- 2) Faculties are obliged to ensure, in particular, the following conditions of operation:
 - hand sanitising option at each entry into individual buildings;
 - thorough cleaning of premises in all buildings aimed at preventing COVID-19 from spreading in accordance with PHA SR's guidance;
 - sufficient disinfectants for personal hygiene and disinfection as well as personal protective equipment for employees and students;

- an appropriate number of disinfection stands and/or contactless disinfection dispensers and paper towel dispensers in washrooms, including paper towels;
- specification of time periods for cleaning and disinfection of premises based on the infection risk (higher-risk premises include areas where respiratory droplets transmission is not restricted e.g. by wearing face masks: toilets, canteens, gyms, shower rooms) and areas with a high turnover of persons.

Responsible persons: **deans of faculties.**

Date: **February 15, 2021 – until further notice.**

- 3) The responsible office shall notify the STU Task Force of any student or employee with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. The responsible office shall cooperate with the STU Task Force in all respects.
- 4) The Rector is cancelling all personal academic ceremonies, social or other mass activities which are not necessary for STU's operation, particularly in closed STU premises with a higher risk of COVID-19 infection. If they are held, PHA SR's instructions applicable to mass events shall be complied with.
- 5) The provisions of the present Article shall apply accordingly also to the Institute of Management of STU, the Rectorate of STU and other parts of STU. For the purposes of the present Article, all parts located in the area of STU at Vazovova-Mýtňa shall be considered one part and all resulting obligations shall be complied with by the treasurer. As for other parts, all obligations resulting from this Article shall be complied with by their directors.

Article 5

Final provisions

- 1) This Rector's Order has been issued in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- 2) Rector's Order No. 7/2020 – PR "Organisation of and conditions applicable to the educational process and operation of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava for the Winter term of the academic year 2020/2021", as amended, shall be cancelled on February 14, 2021.
- 3) Individual persons responsible for performance of measures hereunder shall be authorized to specify details related to their performance.

- 4) This Rector's Order may only be amended by numbered amendments signed by the Rector.
- 5) This Rector's Order shall become valid on its issuance date and come into effect on February 14, 2021 with the exception of Article 1 (5) and Article 3 which shall come into effect on the issuance date.

prof. Ing. Miroslav Fikar, DrSc.¹
The Rector

¹ this document has been signed electronically