

Press release

Measures to contain the spread of coronavirus

ETH suspends classroom teaching

Zurich, 12 March 2020

Due to the latest developments in the spread of the coronavirus, the Executive Board has decided to suspend all classroom teaching with effect from Monday, 16 March up to the end of the Spring Semester 2020. The university is continuing to expand its offering of online teaching alternatives.

Since the outbreak of the coronavirus epidemic, the Executive Board has been monitoring the situation very carefully and continuously responding to it. In view of the current situation, ETH Zurich is now switching all teaching to other distance learning formats. Preparations for this transition, such as expanding the number of online lectures, have already been made and will now be implemented as a top priority.

The aim is to maintain teaching activities so that as many students as possible can complete the semester as normal and avoid having to repeat a semester. The current Spring Semester ends on 29 May 2020. Arrangements have already been put in place for the exams period so as to cater for the special circumstances. As of Monday, only university employees and doctoral staff will be allowed to access ETH buildings, but no students (with few exceptions).

Research and everyday operations continue

The purpose of this measure is to effectively reduce the frequency of human contact at ETH Zurich and to try to contain the spread of coronavirus as much as possible. Since around 20,000 students do not need to be physically present at ETH locations, this will also reduce the amount of people using public transport. With this measure, ETH Zurich is thus following the recommendations of the Swiss government and the Federal Office of Public Health.

The measures already taken for the university's research, administrative and technical activities continue to apply. The protection of all ETH members is the top priority for the ETH Executive Board. To this end it has continuously adapted and communicated all the relevant protective and preventive measures since the end of January. All measures decided are listed and continuously updated on the website www.ethz.ch/coronavirus.

Further information

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