The Rector of ETH Zurich,
pursuant to the ETH Zurich Executive Board decision of 12 March 2020 to suspend
classroom teaching in Spring Semester 2020, and Art. 9, Para. 2 of the ETH Zurich
Organisational Ordinance of 16 December 2003\(^1\) in association with Art. 33 of the
ETH Zurich Ordinance on Performance Assessments of 22 May 2012\(^2\),
has issued the following directive:

**Preliminary note**
The first version of this directive (16.03.2020) set out important policies in order to
establish rapid clarity and legal certainty on certain fundamental issues in this extraor-
dinary situation.

This *second version of the directive (27.03.2020)* sets out policy in further areas.
The respective additional articles and paragraphs are: Art. 3, Para. 1 (d); Art. 3a;
Art. 5 (c) and (d); Art. 7, Para. 3 and 4; Art. 7a; Art. 7b.

The references to issues where additional regulation is required come from all those
involved in teaching: students, lecturers and central and departmental staff involved in
the administration of teaching. The responsible units in the Rectorate are working on
behalf of the Rector to draw up the required provisions as quickly as possible and add
them to the directive – always with an eye to any further restrictions ordered by the
cantonal and federal authorities.

**Art. 1** Purpose, period of validity, precedence

\(^1\) The following provisions with regard to teaching are intended to reduce the frequency
of contact at ETH Zurich and if possible to curtail the spread of the coronavirus.

\(^{1}\) RSETHZ 201.021
\(^{2}\) SR 414.135.1
This directive applies to Spring Semester 2020 (lecture period to 29 May 2020) and the associated end-of-semester examination phase (without the repetition phase at the beginning of Autumn Semester 2020), and to the summer 2020 examination session.

The provisions contained in this directive take precedence over all other provisions.

Art. 2  Course unit cancellation

Cancellation of a course unit is only possible in exceptional cases and requires the approval of the Director of Studies. This does not apply to cancellation of course units which are not compulsory in any degree programme. There the respective lecturer may take the decision independently.

The lecturer informs students of the cancellation by email, with a copy to the Director of Studies, the departmental study programme coordinator and the Examinations Office of Academic Services (Examinations Office).

Art. 3  Continuous performance assessment

The following provisions apply to optional continuous performance assessment activities (interim examinations, learning tasks):

a. Interim examinations have been cancelled. They may be held for practice purposes as long as they can be conducted electronically (no presence involved). The results will not be included in the final grade. This also applies to interim examinations already held in Spring Semester 2020.

b. Learning tasks which require physical presence must either be cancelled or changed such that no physical presence is required. The results of learning tasks which require no physical presence may be applied as before to raise the final grade.

c. The following provisions apply to entries in the Course Catalogue:
   1. Entries regarding interim examinations remain, but are no longer valid.
   2. Entries regarding learning tasks may remain and are still valid if these learning tasks can be completed with no physical presence. If lecturers make changes they should inform the students by email, with a copy to the Examinations Office. The version communicated in the email takes precedence over the respective entry in the Course Catalogue.

d. If continuous performance assessment tasks for two-semester courses (Autumn Semester 2019 + Spring Semester 2020) were completed in Autumn Semester 2019, i.e. by 20.12.2019, the results remain valid and can still have a bonus effect or contribute to raising the final grade.

Compulsory continuous performance assessment activities which require physical presence must either be cancelled or changed such that no physical presence is required. The lecture makes the decision regarding cancellation or alteration and informs the students by email, with a copy to the Examinations Office. The respective entry remains in the Course Catalogue, but the version communicated in the email takes precedence.
Art. 3a End-of-semester and session examinations: Scope of teaching content, mode and length

1 These provisions apply to end-of-semester and session examinations, but not to continuous performance assessment (for the latter see Art. 3). Examinations in the context of a semester assignment are subject to the provisions set out in Art. 4.

2 Lecturers may make changes to previously communicated specifications regarding the scope of teaching content in order to ensure examinations which are appropriate to the current exceptional circumstances. If they make changes, they must inform all of the following persons by email:
   a. Students
   b. The Director of Studies of the department offering the course and (in the case of compulsory or core courses) the Directors of Study of the degree programmes whose students attend the course.

3 The specifications communicated in the email mentioned in Para. 2 take precedence over the entries listed in the Course Catalogue or specifications otherwise communicated.

4 Changes to mode (oral/written) and length of examinations are not permitted.

5 Changes to the way examinations are conducted (e.g., as remote examinations) are not permitted. Should circumstances require it the Rector will determine alternative or adjusted scenarios and the Rectorate will make these available centrally.

Art. 4 Course units which feature graded semester performance

1 If graded semester performance or one of its elements requires physical presence it must either be cancelled without replacement or changed such that physical presence is no longer required. It is also possible to change the content of or postpone graded semester performance. The lecturer makes the decision regarding alteration or postponement.

2 If alteration as per Para. 1 means that a suitable performance assessment is no longer possible, the course unit may be cancelled according to the stipulations set out in Art. 2.

3 The lecturer should inform the students of any changes by email. Any entries on the modality of graded semester performance remain in the Course Catalogue, but the version communicated in the email takes precedence.

Art. 5 Semester papers, project papers, Bachelor's theses, Master's theses

Unless otherwise stipulated in Art. 4, semester papers, project papers, Bachelor’s theses and Master’s theses are subject to the following stipulations:
   a. They may continue as long as the work involved requires no physical presence at ETH Zurich.
b. If physical presence at ETH Zurich is required, e.g. in the laboratory or another workspace, work already begun must be interrupted. If work can continue normally after the interruption, a new submission deadline must be set. The decisive factor here is the duration of the interruption: the new deadline may at the most correspond to the duration of the interruption. Here it must be ensured that students have enough time to prepare adequately for examinations.

c. If students are affected by interruption as per (b), or are uncertain whether they are so affected, they should make contact with their professors or supervisors to establish clarity on the following:
   1. The content of their work and any alterations to it;
   2. Further changes to be made so that physical presence is no longer necessary;
   3. Any interruption and the associated change to the submission deadline.

d. If work is interrupted, the Director of Studies and the Study Administration must be informed.

Art. 6  Dates of end-of-semester examinations and the examination session

1 The dates of end-of-semester examinations, including the respective deregistration deadline, will be shifted to later dates according to developments and need.

2 At the moment no changes to the dates of the summer 2020 examination session are foreseen.

Art. 7  Failed performance assessments, deadlines

1 If a performance assessment (an end-of-semester examination, an individual session examination, an examination block or graded semester performance) is failed, the failed attempt will be annulled. This applies irrespective of whether it was a first or a second attempt (repetition). Para. 2 and 3 still apply.

2 Annulment as per Para. 1 is not possible if one of the following applies:
   a. Failure was due to unexcused absence from an examination (no-show).
   b. An individual examination, an examination block or graded semester performance received a pass grade.

3 If an examination block in a previous examinaton session was interrupted and not sat fully, and if the rest of the block is undertaken in the summer 2020 examination session, the following points apply to annulment:
   a. If the examination block is failed, only those examinations sat in the summer 2020 examination session will be annulled. Annulment will proceed irrespective of the grades earned in the respective examinations. The results of the examinations taken before the interruption will remain valid.
   b. If the examination block is passed there can be no annulment (see Para. 2 (b)).
   c. If the examination block is again not fully completed, the affected student can decide whether the examinations sat in the summer 2020 examination session...
should be annulled or not. Any annulment will always affect all of the examinations of the block which were sat in summer 2020; partial annulment is not permitted. The Examinations Office will inform affected students of the procedure at the end of the examination session.

4 If an examination block is begun in the summer 2020 examination session but is interrupted and not completed, annulment of examinations is correspondingly subject to the provisions of Para. 3 (c).

Art. 7a Academic deadlines

1 The following academic deadlines will be automatically extended for students who are matriculated at ETH Zurich in Spring Semester 2020:

a. Maximum permitted duration of studies: All students for whom Spring Semester 2020 is the deadline for completing their studies will have their maximum permitted duration of studies extended by one semester.

b. First-year examination deadlines: All Bachelor’s degree students who by Autumn Semester 2019 had not yet passed the first-year examinations will have the deadline for passing them extended by two semesters. This is associated with an extension of the maximum permitted duration of Bachelor’s degree studies by one semester. Para. 2 still applies.

c. Additional requirements deadlines for admission to Master’s degree studies: All Master’s degree students who by Spring Semester 2020 had not yet completed all additional requirements for admission to Master’s degree studies will have the deadlines for completion of additional requirements extended by one semester respectively.

2 In Autumn Semester 2020 new programme regulations for five Bachelor’s degree programmes will enter into force. Further details are forthcoming.

3 All other extensions to academic deadlines are governed by existing provisions. Such deadline extensions require submission of cogent grounds, for example illness, accident, maternity or military service.

4 The deadlines of students for whom Spring Semester 2020 is an orientation semester will not be extended.

Art. 7b Doctoral examinations

Doctoral examinations may continue to take place as long as they are conducted fully by video conference without the physical presence of those participating. This provision renders the stipulations regarding physical presence in the “Rector’s directive on the physical presence of the Examination Committee at doctoral examinations” null and void.

3 Applies to the following Bachelor’s degree programmes: Biology, Health Sciences and Technology, Interdisciplinary Sciences, Materials Science, Pharmaceutical Sciences.
Art. 8 Special cases

The Rector rules on cases which are not addressed or are insufficiently addressed in this directive or in other pertinent ordinances or directives.

Zurich, 16 March 2020
The Rector, ETH Zurich
Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. mult. Sarah M. Springman