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Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

The Rector

ETH Zürich
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COVID-19 safety concept: Summer 2021 session examinations

Instructions for Students

Dear students,

ETH Zurich has again decided to conduct your session examinations on campus physically, despite the Corona situation, so that these examinations can be conducted properly and fairly for all candidates.

The health of all those taking part is, of course, our highest priority. Consequently, a safety concept has been developed, which allows us to conduct these examinations, and which meets the health protection requirements. This safety concept defines measures via which the social distancing and hygiene regulations of the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) can be appropriately complied with, e.g. prevention of gatherings, maintenance of sufficient social distancing in examination rooms, obligation to wear face masks during examinations, adequate ventilation, cleaning of workspaces after examinations, exclusion of persons suspected of having COVID-19, etc.

We are providing examiners, invigilators, students and all other examination personnel with detailed instructions on how to comply with the safety concept.

This document contains instructions specifically for you, our students. It complements the [Directive on the Examination Schedule](#), which was sent to you (as for every examination session), along with the email announcing the examination schedule.

Important:

Any student who fails to comply with the stipulations of the safety concept may be refused entry to the examination or may be required to abandon the examination and leave the examination room.

1 Travelling to examinations / examination rooms

Please try to travel to campus by bicycle or on foot, if possible. If you must come by public transport, please note that buses to Höggerberg are relatively full at certain times, although capacity is doubled during rush hour. You can also use the ETH Link to get to Höggerberg, which will operate according to the normal timetable. Please be sure to respect the rules regarding face masks, as laid out in Section 4 below.

ETH buildings will be open as normal during the examination session.

2 Conducting examinations

2.1 Written examinations

Examination rooms for written examinations will open 30 minutes before the examination begins so that you can enter and take your seat as soon as you arrive.

Please use this extra time to access the examination room, but do not arrive more than 30 minutes before the examination is due to begin. Please do not gather unnecessarily in corridors or small lobbies.

The examiner will inform you in advance about the room allocated to you, should your examination take place in more than one room.

- HIL C15, D15, F15/41/61, G15/41/61:
If your examination takes place in one of these rooms (drafting studios), please go to the signposted buffer area in the forecourt of the building (Stefano Franscini-Platz). Support staff will then usher you into the building and the examination room.
- ONA:
If your examination takes place in the ONA building (computer examinations only), please go to the entry area on the west side of the building. Support staff will then usher you into the building and the examination room.
- All other examination rooms:
When you arrive on campus, enter the building, go to the examination room, enter it immediately and take your seat. The invigilators will help you to find it.

Maintain distance from other people at all times as far as possible, and avoid crowded situations, especially when entering the examination room or in the toilets. Please use the stairs instead of the lifts (please give immediate priority to students with limited mobility).

Additional portable toilets will be made available in front of the ONA building.

Take all personal items (jackets, bags, etc.) to your seat and put them on the floor. Please turn off your phone or switch it to flight mode and put it away in your bag.

It is forbidden to touch any examination papers that may already have been distributed, or any apparatus (for computer examinations), before the examination begins.

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Also note that the rooms will be ventilated as much as possible and that the vents will run continuously at full power and without recirculation.

2.2 Oral examinations

Oral examinations should take place in presence. However, a partial or complete conversion to video conferencing is possible, provided the examiner agrees to this.

In case of an oral exam that is conducted in presence, please go to the designated examination room and wait outside until you are admitted.

The examiner will inform you directly about whether safety measures require that the examination must take place in a room other than that listed in the examination schedule, or that it must be conducted via video link.

3 Leaving examination rooms and the campus

As a general rule, the examination room can be left early, up to 15 minutes before the end of the examination.

The examination room will then be emptied in stages after you have completed your written examination. Please make sure that you have placed all examination papers on the table (and not packed them away accidentally) and please follow the instructions of the invigilators.

Leave the building (and if possible the campus) by the most direct route and maintain distance from others. Avoid gatherings outside the buildings.

4 Obligation to wear face masks

All students and all invigilators are required to wear face masks in all ETH buildings. **This also remains valid for the duration of the examinations in the examination rooms.**

Please note that according to the [Directive on Covid-19](#) Community Masks as well as FFP2 Masks with a valve are not permitted!

It is permitted to remove the mask briefly during the exam to eat or drink something. However, it must be put back on again afterwards.

Please remember that by wearing a face mask you are not only protecting yourself, but also other people in particular.

Only exception, see section 5.5 (students exempt from wearing a face mask)

5 Students in special situations

5.1 Students with confirmed Covid-19 disease or in quarantine

Students with recently confirmed Covid-19 disease or students in quarantine are not allowed to come to ETH. Participation in the written examinations is therefore not possible. **You must sign out at the Examinations Office** (exams@ethz.ch or +41 44 632 20 68) **at least one hour before the start of the examination.** A medical certificate is exceptionally waived for this session again.

No written distance examinations can be offered. If attendance is not possible, the written examination must be postponed to a later session.

Oral examinations can be conducted via video conference (see section 2.2).

5.2 Students with symptoms

5.2.1 Written examinations

Students with the following symptoms **may not take part in examinations and must deregister from them with the Examinations Office** (exams@ethz.ch or +41 44 632 20 68) **at least one hour before the examination is due to begin.** The same applies to them as to students with confirmed illness or in quarantine under 5.1.

- Fever
- Respiratory illness symptoms (sore throat, cough (usually dry), shortness of breath, chest pain)
- Sudden loss of sense of smell and/or taste
- Headache
- General weakness, feeling unwell
- Aching muscles
- Head cold
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach ache)
- Skin rash

An up-to-date list of possible symptoms can be viewed on the corresponding [FOPH website](#).

In cases of doubt, students can have themselves tested for Covid-19 (antigen rapid test or regular PCR test e.g. by their general practitioner, in pharmacies, and others). They may sit the examination if the test is negative. If this concerns you, we ask you to bring the test result, which may not be older than 48 hours (antigen rapid test) or 72 hours (PCR test), with you to the examination, in case you are required to produce it.

Examiners as well as their delegated representatives are authorised to eject students from the examination if they show obvious symptoms of illness. In such cases, the examination will be regarded as being “dropped” (=failed exam attempt).

To minimise your risk of falling ill, we recommend that you avoid situations where there may be a high risk of infection in the periods before and during the examinations.

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5.2.2 Oral examinations

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19, students in quarantine and students with any of the symptoms listed in Section 5.2.1 may not come to ETH for oral examinations. They should contact the examiner and request a possible remote examination (oral examination via video link). They should contact their Director of Studies if there are any issues.

If your examiner decides to conduct your oral examination(s) by video link, he/she will inform you about it directly.

5.3 Students who are outside Switzerland

When arriving from abroad, there are certain conditions and sometimes a quarantine obligation of 10 days. This must be taken into account when entering the country for examinations. It is forbidden to come to ETH during the entire quarantine period. Please note the information on the corresponding [Federal Office of Public Health \(FOPH\) website](#).

5.3.1 Written examinations

Students who are outside Switzerland and cannot enter the country in time for their examinations, must deregister from them with the Examinations Office. It is not possible to conduct them as distance examinations.

Exception:

Incoming exchange students and students, who have already submitted a request citing academic grounds and had it approved.

5.3.2 Oral examinations

Students who are outside Switzerland and cannot enter the country in time for their examinations, should contact the examiner and request a remote examination (oral examination via video link).

5.4 Students who belong to the risk group

The safety concept ensures that students who belong to the Covid-19 risk group will also be able to sit examinations.

Note that no remote examinations are offered for written examinations.

They should preferably arrive by private transport and should take particular care to maintain distance from others when entering and leaving buildings.

If you belong to the risk group according to the [official list of the Federal Office of Public Health](#), then **please notify the examiner in charge at the latest two weeks before the respective written examination.**

In smaller examination venues, you should then be able to be placed in such a way that the through traffic past your table is minimised and - if possible - it is ensured that the distance to others is greater than the minimum specified.

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In the **HIL drafting studios**, as well as in the **HPR Foodmarket**, a limited number of examination places will also be equipped with plexiglass protection where you can be placed if possible.

The taking of a written examination in a completely separate room is not planned, but can be made available by the examiner in justified cases, provided that the examiner agrees to this.

For **oral examinations**, apply for remote examination participation (oral examination via videoconference).

In case of problems with the implementation, the persons involved should contact the Examinations Office (exams@ethz.ch or +41 44 632 20 68) for support.

5.5 Students exempt from wearing a face mask

Persons who cannot wear a face mask for medical reasons can be exempted from the obligation to wear a mask if they **contact the examiner in charge at least two weeks before the start of the examination** and also fulfil the following conditions:

1. A medical certificate from a medical specialist is presented stating that there are medical reasons for not wearing a face mask.
2. A negative Covid-19 test, which must not be older than 48 hours (antigen rapid test) or 72 hours (PCR test), is available on the day of the examination. For this purpose, rapid tests are well suited, which are available widely and provide immediate results. Corresponding (rapid) tests can be carried out e.g. at your general practitioner, in the pharmacy, etc.

In smaller examination venues, you should then be able to be placed in such a way that the through traffic past your table is minimised and - if possible - it is ensured that the distance to others is greater than the minimum specified.

In the **HIL drawing studios**, as well as in the **HPR Foodmarket**, a limited number of examination places will also be equipped with plexiglass protection where you can be placed if possible.

There is no provision for taking a written examination in a completely separate room, but in justified cases this can be made available by the examiner if he/she agrees.

Please note that no remote examinations are offered for written examinations.

For **oral examinations**, apply for remote examination participation (oral examination via videoconference).

In case of problems with the implementation, the persons involved should contact the Examinations Office (exams@ethz.ch or +41 44 632 20 68) for support.

I wish you much success in your examinations. Stay well!

Yours sincerely,
Prof. Dr. Sarah M. Springman