

LÍS

Landssamtök íslenskra stúdenta
The National Union of Icelandic Students
Established 2013



Reykjavík, 14. mars 2020

Resolution from LÍS on the COVID-19 pandemic

It has become clear that the higher education community will be greatly affected by the spread of COVID-19. The Minister of Health has announced a ban on assemblies which will last for four weeks from Monday, March 16th, 2020. The assembly ban has a direct impact on education and universities will need to close. Teaching should take place in distance education as much as possible. LÍS is a member of a group of consultants on education in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, where the interests of students will be emphasized. It has been stated that although younger and healthier people recover well from the illness caused by the virus¹, the risk is that others who are more vulnerable will become infected if precautionary measures are not taken. Therefore, it is important for the higher education community to show solidarity and abide by all recommendations of the health authorities, while at the same time seeking solutions to continue schooling in distance education. These restrictions should have the least possible impact on student progress, especially when it comes to those who need to demonstrate completed credits in order to obtain a loan or stay in student housing. It is also important that those who had planned to complete their studies this spring will still have the opportunity to do so. The Board of Directors of the Icelandic Student Loan Fund, hereinafter LÍN, has decided to change its rules on study progress in the light of circumstances in order to accommodate students who are unable to demonstrate completed credits due to the pandemic². LÍS commend LÍN for responding to the situation with increasing flexibility, but encourages universities to work swiftly and reliably with LÍN in deciding and recognizing other forms of confirmation to keep students from having to experience financial difficulties. The LÍS office will be closed over the next four weeks, but you can always contact the organization and seek assistance regarding any issues related to student life at lis@studentar.is.

¹ <https://informationisbeautiful.net/visualizations/covid-19-coronavirus-infographic-datapack/>

² Amended rules can be seen on LÍN's website.

<https://www.lin.is/um-lin/um-lin/frettir/stok-frett/2020/03/12/LIN-kemur-til-mots-vid-namsmenn-vegn-a-koronaveirunnar-COVID-19/>