

**Clarifications about the
Special Rules for the 2nd Semester of the academic year 2020/2021
Version 1.0 (February 5, 2021)**

Considering some questions that have been raised about the interpretation of the document “**Special Rules for the 2nd Semester of the academic year 2020/2021**” here are some general interest clarifications. This document will be updated whenever necessary.

Point 2 – *(There will be no academic break during Carnival)*

- On February 15 and 16 (Monday and Tuesday) as well as the rest of the week, classes will resume as planned, these are considered regular class days.

Point 3 – *(Two different possible scenarios are determined, depending on the evolution of the pandemic situation (please refer to the maps available at the end of the document with both scenarios). Scenario A foresees the possibility of in-person/face-to-face teaching activities starting around Easter and Scenario B foresees the possibility of in-person/face-to-face activities only at the end of the semester. The decision concerning which one of the scenarios to implement will be made, at the latest, until March 15, 2021.)*

-The information concerning the teaching activities scenarios (A or B) will be provided, as indicated in the Special Rules, as soon as possible and considering the prevision of the pandemic evolution at the latest “...until March 15, 2021.”.

Point 4 – *(Due the disturbance caused by the pandemic, in the current academic year all students can exceptionally have access to the special examination period of both semesters, as long as they have a valid frequency.)*

-In a regular situation the special exams period is only accessible to students with valid special statutes or finalist students, but this year it will be open, exceptionally, to all students. With this measure, all students will be able to have access to three (3) exam dates: the two dates concerning the regular exams period and (this year, exceptionally) the date concerning the special exams period.

-This means there will be no other dates for exams besides these three, except for the situations foreseen by the law (such as student association leaders or other situations established by law).

-In the special exams period, it is not possible to do improvement grade exams, this means that can only have access to those exams the students that have not approved to the respective curricular unit yet.

-The students that fulfill all the conditions to make the exams as a finalist student, will do the exams in the dates defined for the special exams period, as usually happens.

Point 5 – *(All the 2nd semester curricular units with **less than 50 enrolled students** will have, mandatorily, to adopt a continuous evaluation model that foresees the possibility of dismissing students from the final exam. Considering the difficulty in knowing the number of students enrolled at the beginning of classes, for this particular situation, the reference will be the number of students enrolled last year in each curricular unit.)*

-There are several continuous evaluation models that can be used, involving individual or group tasks, written or oral, on-line or in-person. There is always the possibility of conducting face-to-face activities (including assessments), as long as the pandemic situation allows it.

-The in-presence/face-to-face regime is the preferable knowledge assessment methodology, as long as the pandemic situation allows it. The expectation is that, at least the exams, can be conducted in that regime but, due to the uncertainty, it is important to have a contingency strategy.

-The continuous evaluation foreseen in Point 5 is in place with Number 2) of the General Rules of Knowledge Assessment, that is, Continuous Evaluation with possibility of approval to the Curricular Unit (dismissing of final exam). All points of the General Rules of Knowledge Assessment related with this type of evaluation are applicable, namely Number 6:

6 – In case the evaluation model is the one described in line a) of number 2:

a) The last exam, if necessary, can be taken in the first date of exam

b) The results of the continuous evaluation have to be available until 2 days before the beginning of the exams period, with exception of the situation foreseen in line a) of number 6

c) The grades of the students dismissed from the final exam will be made available on the 1st call. In this situation, the student will be able to do the improvement exam on the 2nd call