



KEISER
UNIVERSITY
Latin American Campus

Dear Members of the Latin American Campus Community,

For the past weeks, we have been intently monitoring all reports of the new Coronavirus (COVID-19). The whole world is currently on watch, as the virus spreads through all continents. These few weeks have been a powerful reminder of just how connected we are to one another—and how our choices today determine our options tomorrow. And if there is one main takeaway from the effects it has had in the hardly-hit countries, it's that taking the necessary preventive measures is vital.

From the start, we have been considering the many ways in which the virus' future course could alter our academic plans -but most importantly, our lives. Fortunately, a group of extremely dedicated people has been working -in the most literal way- around the clock to respond in a timely manner to the challenges posed by COVID-19. Our teams have been considering and following all recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) -many of these you may have already seen around our sites. And following these recommendations, we write today to update you on major near-term changes that will limit exposure to the disease among members of our community:

- We will begin formally transitioning to virtual instruction for undergraduate, graduate and Language Institute programs.
- By Monday, March 23rd, all of our courses will be fully transitioned to online. Starting Thursday March 19th, faculty members will contact students to provide further details on the structure and methodology for their classes.
- All University courses will be imparted through Blackboard -one of the top online teaching platforms in the world. Please make sure to have all your credentials and to download the app to your phones and tablets.
- If students wish to travel home before the weekend, they are welcome to reach out to their professors so the proper academic arrangements can be made.
- We highly encourage students to remain safe at home with their families -without incurring in any unnecessary exposure. **Staying healthy must be a priority.**

- Additionally, students who are unable to travel back home and need to remain on campus will also receive online instruction. They must prepare for limited on-campus activities and to remain on campus at all times.
- The International Language Institute is also prepared and ready to move forward to online classes by Monday, March 23rd. As of now, the staff is distributing credentials to all its students to have access to a virtual platform under a hybrid model.
- For regular updates and additional information, please visit our website. Academic Dean Arróliga, Mr. Ruffo Torres, Director of the Language Institute, Mr. Leonardo Diaz, Director of Student Activities, and faculty members will continue to send you updates by email, as needed.
- If you are a student and have specific questions or concerns, we encourage you to be in constant touch with your faculty, the Dean's Office or Student Life. All official communications **must come directly from the Administration.**
- We are expecting to resume face-to-face activities on April 14th. We will keep you informed if this changes.

Please trust that the decision to move to virtual instruction was not made lightly. Our main goal is to minimize the need to gather in large groups and to avoid spending prolonged time in proximity with each other in closed spaces. Our actions are consistent with the recommendations of leading health officials on how to limit the spread of COVID-19 and are also consistent with similar decisions made by a number of our peer institutions. In addition, **both San Marcos and Managua campuses remain open and operational.**

To our students, we know it will be difficult to leave your friends and your classrooms. These measures are being taken not just to protect you but to also protect other members of our community who may be at higher risk. With that said, we are proud to be a member of a community where people put the greater good above their own self-interest. Thank you for your patience and your resilience as we all learn to temper increased distance with deeper care for one another.

Respectfully, *Matteo J. Anderson*