

## **The Education Procedures “Suspending Studies during the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic”**

10 April 2020

Dear Students,

The announcement of the Council of Higher Education (CoHE) regarding the education procedures “Suspending Studies during the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic” is provided below.

“Due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic, CoHE has made the following decisions regarding the spring semester of the 2019-2020 academic year:

In order to avoid disrupting education as much as possible, for higher education programs at all levels, classes will be taught through distance education, open education and digital teaching at universities, and universities will be authorized to conduct theoretical parts of the courses through distance education and digital teaching if they have the necessary technical infrastructure and competence.

According to the correspondence, some students who returned to their home countries due to the global pandemic stated that they had difficulty in acquiring internet access and computers and requested CoHE to resolve the issue regarding the courses they could not resume online.

The Council of Higher Education took some new decisions in the light of the emergence of the COVID-19 global pandemic after the spring term, the add-drop period of higher education institutions and the fact that some students were unable to resume their studies through distance education.

Accordingly, the following decisions were reached in the Higher Education Council meeting held on March 31, 2020:

1. Students at associate degree, undergraduate and graduate levels will be able to suspend their studies for the spring term of the 2019-2020 academic year. The period of suspension will not be included in the maximum period of study.
2. For graduate students in the thesis stage of their education:
  - a. University administrative boards will decide if graduate students who are doing their thesis (based on the thesis subject, qualification and essence) can continue their studies online or can suspend their studies by taking the opinion of thesis advisors.
  - b. Students, who are writing their theses and used up their maximum period of study, will be given additional time as much as the duration for the suspension of education.
  - c. Thesis defense and proficiency exams can be held through digital tools, provided that they are “carried out and recorded under auditable environments and conditions”, and students can also postpone them and suspend their studies.
3. CoHE's decisions will be limited to the spring term of the 2019-2020 academic year.

Kindly submitted for your information.”