



Rector

Decision to cancel certain exchange studies for incoming exchange students during the fall semester 2021

The Vice-Chancellor decides that:

- all exchange studies are cancelled for incoming students doing clinical courses and clinical rotations located within Stockholm's Region operations during the autumn semester 2021

Case

In accordance with KI's Strategy 2030, internationalisation will permeate the business and we will strive for increased internationalisation of education in the first and second cycle level. Furthermore, the strategy states that it is a priority for international mobility to increase programmes at KI. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the conditions for physical mobility have been very limited. Travel restrictions and the heavily burdened healthcare have made international student exchange virtually impossible over the past year

During the previous semesters, Stockholm Region has approached all higher education institutions in Stockholm with a recommendation to refrain from accepting exchange students for clinical training/education in the region's healthcare sector. The background to this has been the strained situation in health care due to Covid-19 with a debt of care, as well as the deferred work-based training elements from previous semesters for regular program students. Education dental care at Campus Syd has been in the same situation. KI has complied with the Region's request and has not admitted incoming exchange students for clinical training/education during the academic year 20/21. The region has the same wishes for the autumn semester 2021, where the situation in healthcare is still very strained.

Furthermore, over the past year, KI has advised students not to participate in exchange studies due to the uncertain situation caused by the pandemic, with rapidly changing conditions in different countries, with travel restrictions, lockdowns, difficulties in getting home, overburdened healthcare in host countries, etc.

Reasons for the decision

Incoming students: With reference to the Region's wishes, all exchange studies for incoming students are cancelled for clinical courses and clinical rotations during the autumn semester 2021. For other courses and modules, ordinary rules apply, i.e. that the



respective programme director's department/programme board decides on the possibility to offer incoming exchange students a place. The matter has been prepared with representatives for the Committee for Education and has been discussed with representatives of the relevant training programmes and Stockholm Region. In the discussions with the region, the importance of being able to offer operational training for international exchange students as soon as possible has been expressed.

Outgoing students: As vaccination coverage increases and the spread of infection decreases, the international pandemic situation is expected to develop as more countries reopen and travel restrictions are lifted for many countries. Despite this, the situation is uncertain, and KI advises students planning to study abroad during the autumn semester to closely monitor the situation in the receiving country, to follow the Sweden's Foreign Ministry's current travel restrictions and to consider in their planning that the situation may change with short notice. If the situation is heightened, KI may decide to immediately revoke nomination decisions for exchange studies, due to imperative security reasons.

Courses placed abroad. Due to the continuing uncertain situation caused by the pandemic and the need for foresight in planning courses at undergraduate/second-cycle level and individual degree projects, the Programme Board/Board of Education may, after preparation by the responsible department, can decide to cancel courses or individual degree projects wholly or partly located abroad during the autumn semester 2021, when deemed necessary considering the planning conditions of the programme. There shall be alternatives prepared if the situation changes and foreign-based training activities cannot be carried out.

A decision on this matter has been taken and signed by Vice-Chancellor Ole Petter Ottersen in the presence of University Director Katarina Bjelke following the presentation by Head of Unit Anna-Lena Paulsson. Also present was Alexander Klaréus, President of the Medical Association. Vice-Rector Annika Östman Wernerson, KU member with area responsibility Jonas Sundbäck and Head of Unit Charlotta Cederberg have also participated in the final handling of the case.

Ole Petter Ottersen

Anna-Lena Paulsson