Dear students,

First of all, we hope you and your loved ones are in good health. Apart from the impact on your studies we can also imagine how this situation will affect people personally, especially if you or the people near you are vulnerable. We hope and trust everyone supports each other in these special times.

With this email we would like to update you on the changed situation since last Friday. We received some questions, and we hope to answer them below.

**Do I keep on studying?**

Yes, please keep on studying even though there will be no in-class teaching until 6 April. Please keep in mind that not going to classes is not the same as not studying. If you encounter any personal issues that prevent you from studying in a normal way, please inform the study advisers.

**Can I go home?**

We understand that you want to be with your family in this situation. Therefore it is completely fine if you go home. You don’t have to be in class until 6 April. We do ask you to keep a close eye on the situation, so you can return in time when classes commence again.

**What about my current and upcoming classes?**

As mentioned in our previous email, all current classes will continue online or in a new form. All assignments that were already planned to make at home will continue as planned. Regarding assignments or exams that were planned to take on location, some will be postponed and some will be replaced by take-home exams (on the original date). Your lecturer will inform (or has already informed) you about the new procedures. In case exams are postponed, you will be informed about a new date as soon as it is set. We ask for your understanding that it is not possible to set new exam dates until the situation has normalized. Because the university will be closed until 6 April, all classes that start in the next block (March 30) will start online. Your teacher will inform you about this via Canvas.

**I’m writing my thesis. How do I continue?**

You won’t be able to meet with your supervisor in person. You can contact your supervisor to see how your future meetings will take place. For some forms of data gathering, for instance face to face interviews or group interviews, it is advisable to use another method or to reschedule them to mid-April. Please consult your supervisor about this.

**Study progress**

All teachers are currently busy to adapt their courses to the current situation and we ask for your understanding that it will be different from normal. Some exams might be rescheduled to a later date. Our general goal is to prevent delay in your study as much as possible.

**Where do I go with questions?**

If you have questions about a specific course, please contact your lecturer. For general questions or questions about your internship you can contact the study advisers. It is not possible to visit the Education Desk/Study advisers in person. The Education Desk is reachable via phone: 020-5253003 or email: educationdesk-cs@uva.nl. If you want to talk to the study advisers you can make a phone appointment via the Education Desk. For general information about the UvA and the coronavirus you can send an email to: coronaquestions@uva.nl.

We understand that this is a strange time for everyone. Let’s stay safe and keep an eye on each other.

Kind regards,
Prof. Edith Smit
Director Graduate School of Communication