

## Coronavirus – Current Developments

Dear University of Bamberg staff,

The Bavarian State Ministry of Science and the Arts has informed all public universities that, effective immediately, all teaching involving in-person attendance is to be suspended until further notice. This means that all courses at the University of Bamberg are cancelled. This applies to all courses and events at all university locations (including the Language Centre). This ministerial directive is not the result of a confirmed case of coronavirus at the University of Bamberg.

This also applies to examinations. The ministry has emphasised the following: A strict standard is to be applied to decisions on holding examinations. Wherever possible and reasonable, examinations – e.g. regular course and module examinations – should be postponed. Where compelling reasons preclude postponement (e.g. fixed final examinations like state examinations), sufficient distance between examinees must be ensured.

All examiners at the University of Bamberg are asked to provide examination participants with reliable information on whether scheduled examinations will be held or rescheduled, and to be available to respond to students' enquiries. These measures shall not result in any disadvantage for students. The University of Bamberg will consult with subject groups and faculty deans to provide information on rescheduling.

This ministerial directive does not apply to university administration, research activities and university libraries. Effective immediately, the university Athletics Centre is closed and all university athletics courses are cancelled.

As an addendum to our newsletter of 4 March 2020, please also be aware of the following:

Members of staff who must stay home to care for children no longer allowed to visit their schools or care facilities (either due to a possible infection or to school/facility closures), and who are unable to make other childcare arrangements, shall be released from their duties for up to 10 days with no obligation to make up the missed working hours. Insofar as working from home is compatible with home childcare, this is to be arranged.

Release from work is generally granted for up to 10 days. If staff need to care for multiple children who are not concurrently affected by school or facility closures, an additional release of up to 10 days can be granted for these children's care. The same applies in cases of multiple repeated closures.

Even though the university administration remains present, we strongly request that you to resolve all matters that do not require personal contact either by telephone or by email in order to keep visitations to a minimum.

We urge you to treat this situation with the utmost seriousness and responsibility and that you remain calm. The university will continue to inform you of developments and courses of action via the university [website](#) and further newsletters as necessary.

Sincerely,

Dr. D. Steuer-Flieser