

To
all professors, academic and
non-academic staff
and all students
at the University of Bamberg

Coronavirus – Current Developments

Dear University of Bamberg community,

In order to respond adequately to the current situation, the university board of management has resolved to implement additional measures as follows:

Notwithstanding the state ministry's mandated closure of library reading rooms, it is still possible to use online account services and self-checkout to reserve and pick up books in the university's branch libraries TB 2, TB 3, TB 4, TB 5 and the ERBA library. The libraries offer these services Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Out of consideration for students who are preparing for examinations or writing term papers and theses, we ask that all library users carefully consider which books are absolutely essential before making any reservations.

With regard to reading room closures and the increased possibility of restricted access to examination-related literature, in justified cases students writing their bachelor's and master's theses may submit a deadline extension request to chairpersons of the examining boards. Chairpersons are urged to review these requests sympathetically and to grant a four-week extension where necessary. Furthermore, the university board of management advises all instructors to accept seminar papers submitted up to four weeks after deadline with no negative repercussions for students.

In consideration of the intensifying crisis and the related contingency measures announced by the Bavarian state government, the university board of management has decided that all course and module examinations will be cancelled beginning 18 March 2020. This decision applies irrespective of either the number of participants or whether examinations are written or oral in nature. Re-sit dates will be announced in due course. This applies to all examinations for which the university is responsible.

Concerning state examinations, the state ministry – and not the university – is responsible for all decisions, including postponements and rescheduling. We therefore ask that you direct any queries on this topic to the responsible ministerial offices.

The university strives to contribute to keeping the spread of the virus as minimal and as slow as possible. For this reason, university staff is generally to forego business trips until and including 19 April (regardless of whether or not trips are to risk areas, and regardless of whether they involve domestic or international travel). Requests for exceptional approval are to be passed through official channels to the University President in cases of academic staff, and to the Administrative Registrar in cases of non-academic staff.

Conferences, meetings or other gatherings – regardless of size – are to be held to a minimum across the entire university, and are to be postponed unless absolutely necessary.

As hitherto, in justified cases university employees may be permitted to work from home to the extent that this is operationally and technically feasible. Justified cases include return from a risk area, contact with an infected individual, or the need to care for children due to school and

childcare facility closures. Specific terms are to be arranged between employees and their respective superiors. All cases are to be reported to the personnel department. In cases of urgently needed childcare, staff may also be granted a release from official duties under the terms specified in the newsletter of 11 March 2020.

Based on present knowledge, all measures presented above shall remain in effect until and including 19 April. We therefore ask that you proceed as usual in planning and preparing for meetings in the summer semester.

The university will continue to inform you about developments and courses of action through the usual channels. As always, if you have specific questions not answered in this newsletter, you can send them to the university's coronavirus contact point at kontaktstelle-covid19@uni-bamberg.de.

Sincerely,

Dr. D. Steuer-Flieser