

Dear students,

Last Friday, 3 April, the Bavarian state minister of science and the arts announced that the summer semester lecture period will be scheduled as follows:

The lecture period for the 2020 summer semester will begin on 20 April 2020. The end of the lecture period at Bavarian universities will be pushed back until 7 August 2020.

This means that a degree of *flexibility* has been built into the lecture period, but this *does not mean that the lecture period will be extended by two weeks across the board*. Among other things, this arrangement provides instructors the option of beginning their courses a somewhat later and then extending them past the originally scheduled end of courses on 24 July. Whether or not this applies to your courses will be communicated by your instructors via the university's Virtual Campus. A virtual companion to each regular course is being created, and it is here that instructors will provide all pertinent information - including on organisational matters.

Until further notice, **classroom-taught courses** at all University of Bamberg locations, as well as **external courses and excursions** remain suspended. Your course instructors are currently hard at work to convert their planned in-class courses to digital formats (ranging from VC to online teaching). Individual courses not yet available in online form in the first two weeks of the semester can therefore be extended by one to two weeks within the scope of the expanded lecture period.

Should you have further general questions concerning the start of the semester, please see the "Specific questions for students" section of the university's coronavirus FAQ website: <https://www.uni-bamberg.de/en/health-management/coronavirus/faq-for-university-members/>

These frequently asked questions are continuously being updated, expanded and adapted to current developments. Please check the central coronavirus website regularly to keep abreast of any news and changes. If you have specific questions about individual courses, please contact the course instructor by email.

The university board of management is aware that many questions remain open. This is particularly true of the entire examination system (registration, examination types, deadlines, re-sit regulations and scheduling, inspection of results, etc.). All arrangements related to this issue must and will be made according to a principle of *avoiding disadvantages to students to the greatest extent possible* (3 April 2020 letter from the state ministry to presidents of Bavarian universities). We are actively working on this issue, and we are convinced that we will also be able to find solutions to individual challenges.

Regardless of all the imponderables and uncertainty, I'd like to wish you all a pleasant Easter and a few more restful days before courses begin on 20 April. The start of courses will most certainly be less than uniform in terms of both scheduling and initial success, and we kindly ask for your patience and understanding. I am certain, however, that after an all but unavoidable period of initial difficulty, everything will sort itself out.

Take care of yourselves and others and stay healthy!

Yours,
Frithjof Grell

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