

Dear new students,

In these difficult times, I'd like to make an exception and welcome you to the university even before the start of the lecture period. We are aware that the current situation is not easy, especially for you as new students. But allow me to reassure you: on the one hand, the circumstances represent something of an experiment for all university members – no one can truly say how things will develop, but everyone is working on clever solutions! On the other hand, in recent weeks we have created an excellent and efficient working structure for answering arising questions quickly and reliably, and for exploring all available options and solutions.

You'll need a bit of patience at various times, but you can rest assured that we'll do our best and will not leave you to fend for yourselves at the commencement of your studies! We have already compiled the information most relevant to you as new student members of our academic community. Please read this letter carefully!

DYNAMIC SITUATION - INCREASED NEED FOR INFORMATION

The situation is extremely dynamic and we are having to react practically every day. It is therefore absolutely essential that you keep yourselves informed about the current political situation and the corresponding implications for teaching. To help you do this, we have created a website that we update continually. Please visit the site regularly:

<https://www.uni-bamberg.de/en/health-management/coronavirus/>

START OF LECTURES

The lecture period at universities across Bavaria begins on 20 April. The university board of management, teaching staff and all employees are hard at work to ensure that studies can continue under the given conditions, and to increasingly convert traditionally in-class courses to digital formats. Please remain patient – subject representatives will inform you about developments in your respective degree programmes in due time.

ADVISORY SERVICES AND OFFICE HOURS

The advisory offices of the university administration, the subject groups and central institutions are closed to in-person visitation until further notice. Among other affected services, this includes the office of the academic registrar, the central advisory service and the international office. These and other services can still be reached by telephone and email. Please find contact information here (in German):

www.uni-bamberg.de/studium/im-studium/ihre-kontaktpersonen

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION AND PREPARATION COURSES

As of now and without exception, all events originally scheduled for the new student orientation days from 14 to 18 April, including introductory events and placement tests, cannot be held in the usual way prior to 19 April.

To help you get oriented and to ease the start of your first semester, we have developed *virtual new student information*. All information pertaining your studies, course timetables and examinations has been compiled in an online course. Beginning 14 April 2020, all of this information will be available on the university's Virtual

Campus (VC) platform. You can find information on system registration and use here (in German):

www.uni-bamberg.de/studium/eet

The presentations, documents and videos compiled in the Virtual Campus will be available over an extended period of time. Information on whom to contact with your questions and concerns is also provided. We ask that you please do as we are doing: do not view this new form of teaching and information sharing as an obstacle, but as an opportunity to make your own personal contribution to the advancement of digitalisation.

For all of us, the semester will begin from afar, but the university board of management, the teaching and administrative staff, as well as your tutors are still here for you.

In this spirit, I wish you and all of us a successful and healthy start to an unusual summer semester - one that we will all certainly remember as both exiting and challenging!

Best regards on behalf of the entire university board of management and myself,
Frithjof Grell

Prof. Dr. Frithjof Grell

Vizepräsident für Lehre und Studierende