

Information on Teaching in the 2021 Summer Semester (1)

Dear colleagues,

Firstly, I wish you all a good start to the summer semester. As in the last six months, I would like to provide you with information on the current semester in a series of newsletters. The following topics are of current importance:

Conducting outstanding examinations:

The vast majority of the university's 2020/21 winter semester examinations and spring 2021 state examinations have now been completed. We are very pleased and grateful that our infection prevention measures were very successful during in-person examinations. Thanks to the tremendous effort made by the Office of Examinations, the examination invigilators and facilities management, there has not yet been a single case of infection that can be traced back to examination participation. In the exceptionally rare cases where students were diagnosed with a Corona infection shortly after an examination, the health authorities did not have to impose any quarantine measures on the examination groups.

However, due to the currently dynamic infection occurrence and the generally escalating risk of infection, we would like to readjust our infection prevention measures for the still outstanding examinations. In doing so, we are keeping in mind that all regulations are uniformly applicable to all examinations (including state examinations). On the one hand, all candidates are urgently requested to voluntarily undergo a rapid Corona test immediately prior to an examination and to appear for the examination only in the case of a negative result. Locations in Bamberg where you can undergo such a test free of charge are listed on the FAQ pages. On the other hand, for larger examinations at Kapellenstraße 13, an additional security service will be commissioned beginning 6 April to monitor the masking and distancing requirements in the waiting area in front of the building before and after examinations. This is the only location where there will still be a handful of examinations with more than 100 candidates in the coming weeks. Students should also be made aware of our FAQ pages detailing infection prevention measures, the importance of their own cooperation in implementing them and information on the procedures to be followed in the event of an infection. All these measures are intended to ensure that examinations can continue to be carried out under safe conditions.

Second Corona Emergency Act:

Last week, the Bavarian Parliament passed the Second Corona Emergency Act (*Corona-Eilgesetz II*). This stipulates that the Bavarian Higher Education Act regulations concerning both the individual standard programme duration and examinations valid for the summer semester 2020 will also apply to the past 2020/21 winter semester and the upcoming 2021 summer semester. The aim is

to continue to prevent financial and examination-related disadvantages for students with regard to semester-specific deadlines and periods as well as BAföG entitlement.

Corona Statutes:

Our universities Corona Statutes (*Corona-Satzung*) have been extended until the end of the 2021 summer semester with slight alterations (<https://www.uni-bamberg.de/fileadmin/www.abt-studium/Pruefungs-Studienordnungen/Coronasatzung/Coronasatzung-2020-3.pdf>). This means that, among other things, the counting of failed examinations remains suspended.

University Library:

If the 7-day incidence rate exceeds 150 in the city of Bamberg, the university executive board has decided that the University Library's reading rooms will be closed and only contactless lending will be available. The incidence value on Friday will be used as the basis for the decision for the entire following week. You can find the current status on the library's website at www.uni-bamberg.de/ub.

Declaration concerning in-person courses and examinations:

As in the 2020/21 winter semester, anyone wishing to hold in-person courses and examinations in the 2021 summer semester within the respective legal framework is requested to submit a corresponding declaration in summary form for the entire in-person course and examination offering. This declaration and the in-person notification in UnivIS is explicitly bound to the assumption of responsibility to fully comply with the provisions of the manual on the "Directive for the implementation of the Bavarian regulation on infection prevention and control measures (*Zweite Bayerische Infektionsschutzmaßnahmenverordnung*) at the Bavarian universities". A form for this purpose is available in the university intranet at <https://www.uni-bamberg.de/intranet/universitaetsinterne-informationendokumente-zum-coronavirus/>.

Credit for electronic/digital teaching:

After two semesters, and in consultation with the faculties, the possibility of higher credit for online teaching with significantly greater preparation or implementation effort will not be extended. Credit for online teaching will therefore always be equivalent to that of in-person teaching. However, it is very important that the contact with the students, which is necessary for good supervision, remains guaranteed even in online teaching. In the case of temporary teaching staff, care must also be taken to ensure that any excess capacity in the fulfilment of teaching obligations resulting from higher crediting of courses in the last two semesters is reduced again prior the end of the contract.

Examinations in the 2021 summer semester:

I would like to ask you to determine at the beginning of the semester the extent to which the Corona Statutes allow for the selection of alternative examination formats in place of in-person examinations (particularly written examinations). Early notification of the selection of an alternative examination format to the students and to the Office of Examinations is important for good examination preparation and planning. The examination periods for the summer semester will be announced shortly.

Alternative examination formats can also include online examinations. For some time now, the Bavarian government has provided a legal basis for online examinations. The most important guidelines have already been incorporated into several of our study and examination regulations and are also reflected in the latest Corona Statutes. In order to be able to conduct online examinations on this basis in a practicable and legally compliant manner, a notice concerning electronic distance examinations has been issued. This notice will soon be available at <https://www.uni-bamberg.de/intranet/universitaetsinterne-informationendokumente-zum-coronavirus/>.

Further development of remote examinations:

The "Remote ExaminationsT taskforce will begin its work at the start of the summer semester. In it, representatives from the professorial staff, the non-professorial academic staff, the Computing Centre and the student body will focus on the task of exploring longer-term perspectives for the implementation of remote examinations (particularly written examinations) and initiating new developments. It also maintains contact with the Bavarian competence centre for online examinations at the TU Munich. I will gladly accept any requests and suggestions for the taskforce agenda.

A letter with similar content is simultaneously being sent to the students. It is available on the coronavirus website (<https://www.uni-bamberg.de/en/health-management/coronavirus/>).

Once again, I would like to thank you very much for your outstanding commitment to good teaching in these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Stefan Hörmann