

Information on Studies in the 2021 Summer Semester (4)

Dear students,

According to information from the Ministry, it currently appears that the special coronavirus rights will expire on 30 September 2021, at the end of the 2021 summer semester. If the regulation was actually intended in this way, the 2021/22 winter semester would once again be regarded as a normal semester.

In light of this, I would like to inform you at this early stage that there would then be no further extensions of individual standard programme durations, maximum allowed durations of study and examination deadlines. This would also restore any existing limits on the number of failed examination attempts and the requirement for successful progress assessments. Furthermore, it would no longer be possible to withdraw from examinations at short notice for unspecified reasons, and medical certificates would again be required in order to avoid negative consequences of missed examinations. Deviations from officially stipulated examination formats could also be eliminated.

I particularly wish to address those of you who have only experienced university studies during the coronavirus pandemic, but not regular examination processes. I would also like to address those whose problems with successfully passing examinations or completing their studies prior to the 2020 summer semester have only been temporarily resolved by the relaxed coronavirus regulations. Please begin preparing yourself for this possible new situation now – especially as regards registering for examinations in the current summer semester.

If deviations from the study and subject examination regulations appear to be justified for reasons for which students are not responsible, the examining boards may in the future - as in the past - make specific determinations in individual cases upon request (hardship regulations). Please contact the relevant examination board in confidence if necessary.

It is currently uncertain whether the Ministry will also make special provisions for BAföG deadlines, proof of internships that cannot be carried out due to pandemic-related restrictions, and the extension of deadlines for submitting the documents required for a master's degree. However, the university is working to obtain answers to these questions, and I will notify you as soon as reliable information is available.

Lastly, I would like to return to my comments made in the last newsletter regarding teaching in the coming 2021/22 winter semester. In order to avoid any misunderstanding, I would like to emphasise once again that we are working towards a return to regular in-person operations at the earliest responsibly justifiable time. However, for the time being and until the necessary parameters for such an option are established, we must act according to the current legal situation and therefore expect a high degree of online teaching with opportunities for selected in-person courses. In light of this, and in consideration of the fact that the winter semester has to be planned well in advance, we have decided to continue the planning model that has already proven successful in recent semesters. It affords us all the options to flexibly manage transitions between online and in-person teaching formats in various dimensions.

With the assurance that I am working hard to make the transition into the post-coronavirus teaching and examination period as good as possible for all of you, I offer my best regards. Sincerely,

Stefan Hörmann