

Information on Studies in the 2021 Summer Semester (5)

Dear students,

The most recent decisions by the Bavarian state government on handling the coronavirus pandemic have set a new course and created a new scope for university operations. At our university, our approach will be as follows:

In addition to practical courses, a number of additional in-person offerings are possible. This option is aimed at courses and events for those of you in the early stages of your studies and not yet familiar with in-person teaching, as well as those of you in the final phase of your studies. This may seem attractive in some cases, but it of course does not imply that instructors are generally obligated to immediately convert their courses to in-person offerings. With this option, the situation known from the start of the last winter semester is more or less restored. This also means that if instructors want to use this option, they will still have to create an online version of each in-person course as soon as one or more students cannot or do not wish to be on site. I have advised teaching staff to promptly inform you if they would like to make use of the new in-person teaching option.

The prerequisite for conducting such courses is compliance with the established rules for infection protection (observance of the required physical distancing in sufficiently large rooms, the mask requirement as well as the relevant hygiene standards). Furthermore, two new regulations are applicable with immediate effect. Firstly, an FFP2 mask is now always required on university premises. Secondly, if there is a 7-day incidence rate of over 50, coronavirus testing is compulsory for all in-person courses – even for the previously approved practical courses. In this case, you must submit a written or electronic negative result from an externally administered PCR or POC antigen test. Those persons conducting the courses are responsible for verifying the test results. Since Bamberg's 7-day incidence rate is currently below 50, this regulation is not relevant at present. On the other hand, the university executive board's urgent request that you get tested prior to courses and examinations (see my newsletter of 20 May 2021) continues to apply. In the event that the incidence rate increases and the issue of compulsory testing becomes relevant, I will contact you again with additional, updated information.

According to current knowledge, the two new legal regulations do not affect examinations. For the administration of in-person examinations, the most recent prior regulations continue to apply unchanged and irrespective of incidence rates. These regulations and further information concerning free self-tests can be found in our coronavirus FAQs at <https://www.uni-bamberg.de/en/health-management/coronavirus/faq-for-university-members/faq-for-students/>.

The new situation undoubtedly presents us all with special challenges due to its somewhat new system of action and rapid communication. In light of this, I would like to thank you once again on behalf of the entire university executive board for your understanding and your willingness to adapt to a rapidly changing situation.

Best regards,

Stefan Hörmann