

## Information on Studies in the 2021 Summer Semester (6)

Dear students,

At the end of this challenging summer semester lecture period, I can once again deliver some new information:

### Mask requirements:

As before, wearing an FFP2 mask is mandatory in all university buildings. However, wearing a mask outdoors on university premises is no longer required.

### In-person teaching with incidence rates above 50:

Since the 13th regulation on infection prevention and control measures (*Infektionsschutzmaßnahmenverordnung*) came into force, testing has been compulsory two days after all in-person courses (including the practical courses previously permitted as an exception) if the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) publishes a 7-day incidence rate exceeding 50 on three consecutive days. In this case, you must submit a written or electronic negative result of a PCR or antigen test carried out under medical supervision (e.g. in a pharmacy or testing centre) twice a week. Where necessary, (e.g. in the case of certain practical courses including phases where the minimum distancing requirement cannot be met, or in the case of field trips) more frequent testing can also be advisable and arranged accordingly. Only vaccinated or recovered persons without typical symptoms of a coronavirus infection are exempt from the testing requirement. In such cases, proof of full vaccination or recovery from prior illness must be presented.

### In-person examinations:

As was the case for the repeat examinations in April, a security service will again be deployed in the upcoming examination cycle for the examinations with the highest attendance. This is meant to ensure that the relevant infection control regulations are observed before and after examinations in Kapellenstraße 13 and the Brose Arena.

For the autumn 2021 state examination, the Ministry of Education has lifted the requirement to wear a mask while taking the examinations and has left the decision to wear a mask up to the candidates. As a result, additional time for the written examinations will no longer be granted. At the University of Bamberg, this regulation is being addressed such that the wearing of medical masks continues to be considered the minimum standard for our university examinations - compulsory for university examinations and strongly recommended for state examinations. For all university and state examinations, wearing FFP2 masks remains compulsory for the candidate's way to their assigned seat in closed examination rooms. It is also still possible to wear these masks while completing the examination. For written university examinations, the previously established additional time allowances will remain in effect due to the continued mask requirement.

As concerns doctoral examinations, the wearing of masks may be dispensed with during a dissertation defence if all persons present are vaccinated, recovered or tested, a minimum distance of 1.5 m between persons is maintained, sufficient room ventilation is ensured, and all persons present agree to the removal of the masks.

### Information on remote examinations:

Since the last newsletter, a German-language website providing information on tools for online teaching, legal bases, data protection and formats for remote examinations has been created (<https://www.uni-bamberg.de/rz/dienstleistungen/webdienste/fernpruefungen/>). The University Executive Board hopes that this will make relevant information practically available to all instructors interested in utilising remote examinations.

#### Teaching in the 2021/22 winter semester:

On the one hand, the Bavarian Ministry of Science and Arts is aiming to open up the universities to more in-person teaching in the coming winter semester. On the other hand, a necessary change in the framework conditions – particularly a modification of distancing rules for vaccinated, recovered or tested persons – is not yet in sight. In light of this, maintaining our previous planning model with various options for the use of online or in-person formats still appears favourable. In principle, it currently seems possible to cautiously expand in-person teaching in such a way that, in addition to practical courses and courses for new students and examination candidates, courses with fewer participants will also be practicable. For the latter, the limiting factor is the size of the room in conjunction with the applicable distancing regulations.

#### Extension of the Corona Statutes for the 2021/22 winter semester:

Under the assumption that the coming winter semester will again be largely characterised by online teaching, a further extension of the Corona Statutes in an adapted form is currently under consideration. In particular, this would mean that the options for choosing alternative examination formats and for individual flexibility in examinations (see Information on studies in the 2021 summer semester (3) of 20 May 2021) would remain in place. I will inform you as soon as relevant decisions have been made.

#### Support in difficult times:

Due to the pandemic, many of you have had to cope with considerable challenges and difficulties. The University offers a variety of counselling and support options. I would therefore like to again recommend the university's counselling and advisory services website, where you will find contact persons with whom you can speak confidentially and, if you wish, anonymously about your questions, concerns and needs: <https://www.uni-bamberg.de/studium/im-studium/beratung-fuer-studie-rende/>. I would especially like to thank those of you who have shown great personal commitment to fellow students in need of support or assistance.

I very much hope that you have managed to get through the past semester as well as possible, and I thank you for your willingness to do your part in overcoming the current challenges in academic life. I wish you all the best for the remaining exams and a relaxing semester break.

Sincerely,

Stefan Hörmann