

Information on Teaching in the 2021/22 Winter Semester (1)

Dear colleagues,

Along with my best regards for the start of the winter semester, I again have some information to share with you today. Among other things, this newsletter is intended to provide clarification on some points that remained open in previous communications and to remind you of some important issues.

The 3G rule and its enforcement:

As previously, the so-called 3G rule (access only for vaccinated, recovered or tested individuals) continues to apply to access to the university (i.e. to its buildings and other enclosed spaces, including the libraries) when the 7-day incidence rate within the city of Bamberg is 35 or higher. As soon as it is officially established that this threshold has not been reached for three consecutive days, the corresponding 3G checks will no longer be carried out beginning two days later in accordance with the official announcement. Furthermore, it should be noted that restricted course access to only vaccinated and recovered students (2G rule) is not currently planned for Bavarian universities.

For part-time lecturers, as for regular members of staff, the 3G rule does not apply in the fulfilment of their professional duties. However, we urge you to voluntarily adhere to the 3G rule with regard to in-person contacts with students and thus to foster a mutual relationship of trust by continuing to avoid any discrepancies between instructors and students.

All staff and part-time lecturers of the university as well as the security service responsible for inspections are authorised and obliged to enforce compliance with the 3G rule among students and visitors to the university. If persons without 3G verification refuse to leave the University premises, the police should be called to assist and the incident (including the name of the person concerned) should be reported immediately to kontaktstelle.covid19@uni-bamberg.de. The police may then impose a fine for an administrative violation.

Chessboard pattern seating and mask requirement:

The chessboard pattern or 50% seating occupancy of teaching rooms systematically leads to a situation where a minimum distance of 1.5 m between individuals can usually no longer be maintained. For this reason, wearing medical masks is mandatory for participation in courses. Exceptions to this mask requirement under the condition that the minimum distance of 1.5m is reliably observed can be made for both lecturing instructors and students giving presentations.

Collection of contact data:

Unlike in the past, students' contact information does not currently have to be collected in courses or when using the library and common rooms. However, in the interest of one's own safety, I would recommend continuing with the now well-practised data collection routines. This means that contact tracing in the event of an infection can continue to be carried out on the basis of the attendance list in the VC course. For other visits to the university premises, it is possible to register using the QR codes located on the doors.

Scope and disclosure of in-person teaching:

Many students' return to Bamberg is closely linked to their expectation of in-person courses. With this in mind, I would ask you to coordinate intensively to ensure that there is a sufficient in-person course offering in every degree programme – particularly for new students.

We would therefore like to ask you once again to cancel UnivIS reservations on rooms that have been booked but are not needed as soon as possible. Please also note that – as in previous semesters – a decision to cancel a room booking will have no impact whatsoever on future room booking options. Also, for each of your courses listed in UnivIS, the “*Format der Lehrveranstaltung*” field should now reliably indicate whether the course in question will take place in-person, online or in a hybrid format.

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

Our university's Corona Statutes were recently extended to apply to the 2021/22 winter semester. This means that, in particular, the possibility of choosing alternative examination formats and of individual flexibility in examinations (see Information on Studies in the 2021 Summer Semester (3) of 20 May 2021) will be maintained.

Technical support for instructors:

The Computing Centre and Media Technology staff will again actively provide you with support in the 2021/22 winter semester. However, it is important to continue to minimise the transmission risk and to maintain the support structures.

- If you opt for in-person or hybrid events, the Media Technology staff will show you in advance how to set up and use the media control system and other technical equipment in your seminar room or lecture hall.
- The Computing Centre can lend you webcams, microphones and tripods for your courses, show you how to connect and use the equipment and also provide instructions.
- Furthermore, the Computing Centre team can support you in using the computer labs and in deciding whether to hold your course there in person or with the help of virtual computers in the Microsoft Cloud.

One thing these services all have in common: For individual training appointments in course rooms (media control and recording technology) or in the Computing Centre, we urge you to ensure that the 3G rule is observed. In order to minimise contacts, the Media Technology and Computing Centre staff are happy to provide support by telephone and remote maintenance directly before or during a course session. On-site staff support is not possible. If technical problems cannot be solved remotely, this will be done at the latest after the session. As usual, simply contact IT Support to get help directly or to be redirected to the appropriate specialist department.

Special courses and events:

As mentioned earlier, special courses and events that go beyond the invitation of external guest lecturers to courses should be communicated to the University Executive Board, the rooms should

initially be used according to the same guidelines as for in-person courses, and verification of the 3G requirements should be carried out by the instructor on a course-by-course basis. This particularly applies to conferences, congresses, fairs and cultural events. Depending on the format of the event, however, more specific regulations may be necessary - for example, in the case of providing catering services for participants. For such cases, information can be obtained from Ms Ziegmann (Tel. 1096; sicherheitswesen@uni-bamberg.de) or the Internal Affairs & Central Tasks Division (Z/IZA) in the near future.

StuDocu:

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to a completely different topic, which is unrelated to the pandemic: On the StuDocu platform, students have the opportunity to make documents related to their studies available to their fellow students. This includes, for example, transcripts and summaries, but also presentations, lecture notes, sample examinations and old examinations. The more than 2000 documents associated with the University of Bamberg can be found at <https://www.studocu.com/de/institution/otto-friedrich-universitat-bamberg/3664>. If your own documents are also posted there in violation of copyright regulations, you can submit an initial request for the deletion of such content directly to StuDocu under the Copyright Infringement heading at <https://www.studocu.com/de/support>. If this does not lead to the desired outcome, a warning to the platform operator may be considered – in this case, please contact the Legal Affairs Unit.

Furthermore, I would like to refer you to a regular offering of the FBZHL on the topic of “copyright” as well as the individual consultation (see: <https://web.ub.uni-bamberg.de/typo3ub/ubberatung/index.php?id=1>) by library director Dr. Fabian Franke and also to the BMBF's handout "*Urheberrecht in der Wissenschaft*" (<https://www.bmbf.de/SharedDocs/Publikationen/de/bmbf/pdf/urheberrecht-in-der-wissenschaft.html>).

I wish you all a good start to the new semester and once again offer my thanks for all your efforts to ensure the highest quality of teaching under the current conditions. The gradual return to in-person teaching will certainly continue to present us with special challenges in the weeks and months ahead.

Sincerely,

Stefan Hörmann