

Information on Teaching in the 2021/22 Winter Semester (5)

Dear colleagues,

As you are aware, the Bavarian state government's regulations on infection prevention that were enacted on 24 November 2021 have also resulted in drastic changes to the operations of higher education. Problems resulting from the implementation of the 2G regulation for libraries and practical and artistic courses and the 3G+ regulation for examinations and frontline employees (all teachers and persons with contact to others) have been repeatedly and intently reported back to the Ministry of Science and the Arts. In particular, these concern the now limited potential for unvaccinated persons to pursue their studies in certain contexts, as well as the high costs and local lack of PCR test availability. I will of course inform you immediately as soon as new perspectives arise due to modified government policies.

In one respect, however, I can provide you with some new information today:

Online study period before Christmas:

After an intensive collaborative exchange, several Bavarian universities have now decided to establish an online study period before Christmas. This will enable students to reduce contacts before visiting their families and would allow them to make travel plans more flexibly. At our university, this phase covers the last one and a half weeks of the pre-Christmas lecture period from 13 to 22 December 2021 (23 December is already a lecture-free day). During this time, only practical and artistic courses that cannot be carried out online, as well as courses that require special laboratory or working spaces at the university, and examinations that have already been scheduled can place in person. For this purpose, it is important that the remaining in-person activities are jointly coordinated within the teaching units.

Especially in times of increased online teaching, I would like to ask that you maintain personal contact with your students. This exchange, even beyond a personal face-to-face encounter, is particularly important to many students. Showing our interest in students' well-being at this difficult time at the beginning or end of an online lecture or seminar by initiating a short exchange about students' problems and needs can be an important signal.

I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

Stefan Hörmann