

Information on Studies in the 2020/21 Winter Semester (9)

Bamberg, 23 February 2021

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the entire University Executive Board, I would like to start by offering you my sincerest thanks for once again providing our students with the best winter semester possible under difficult conditions and for flexibly organising and responsibly conducting examinations in recent weeks. We greatly appreciate your dedication and willingness to meet the many challenges of the coronavirus pandemic and to make infection prevention a top priority.

I would like to address a number of issues that have arisen since writing my last newsletter:

**Dealing with students from at-risk groups during in-person examinations:**

Since the start of the examination period, increased consideration has been given to the question of how students from at-risk groups can complete in-person examinations. It should be noted here that students with particular health risks verified by a doctor can apply with the responsible examining board for special examination conditions at any time – and particularly now during the coronavirus pandemic.

**Wearing FFP2 masks during in-person examinations:**

In accordance with the regulations for state examinations, participants are required to wear a mouth and nose covering during all in-person examinations. Although wearing FFP2 masks is not required, you should strongly encourage students to do so.

**Dealing with students who are exempt from mask requirements during in-person examinations:**

In isolated cases regarding in-person examinations, the question of how to deal with students who are exempt from mask requirements arises. The Office of Examinations has developed differentiated approaches for such cases in centrally organised examinations with the aim of ensuring the greatest possible protection against infection for both invigilators and other students. The office is also available for consultation and advice concerning decentralised examinations.

**Teaching in the 2021 summer semester:**

Generally speaking, we will approach the coming summer semester in the same way as the current winter semester. We can expect a large proportion of online teaching with opportunities for selected on-site courses. The extent to which the latter will be permitted and actually feasible is, of course, not yet foreseeable. In any case, an online version of each in-person course should be created again in the summer semester. Furthermore, room planning in UnivIS will again be organised as in the winter semester. This means the default starting point is the normal on-site room allocation (with an accompanying online offering if necessary). The format of each course will then be adapted according to the current circumstances and designated accordingly. (Temporarily) unused lecture halls can be used for other in-person courses with increased corona-related space requirements. Original room reservations that are no longer relevant due to online teaching will be deleted from the room scheduling in order to avoid confusion among students and teachers. However, these original bookings are retained in the official logged-in entries and can be reactivated when regular operation is resumed.

**Newsletters in English translation:**

English translations of newsletters are published shortly after originals at <https://www.uni-bamberg.de/en/health-management/coronavirus/>, meaning that international students and teaching staff will have an easier time staying abreast of all current information, regulations and decisions.

A letter with similar content is simultaneously being sent to the students. It is available on the coronavirus website (<https://www.uni-bamberg.de/en/health-management/coronavirus/>).

I wish you all the best for the semester break.

Sincerely,

Stafan Hörmann