

Information on Study-related Developments in the 2021/22 Winter Semester (7)

Dear students,

To begin with, today I can provide you with some information on current regulations in connection with fighting the coronavirus pandemic.

Restrictions on vaccinated and recovered status:

Since 15 January 2022, persons vaccinated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine require a second dose of vaccine to be considered fully vaccinated. Previously, a single vaccination dose was sufficient. At the same time, the status as recovered was also reduced from 6 months to 90 days. Persons who cannot verify vaccination after these 90 days are considered unvaccinated. The abrupt introduction of these regulations means that affected students suddenly no longer have access to in-person courses and, once they have been (re-)vaccinated, will have to wait 14 days until the ban on entering the university is lifted. This is a very difficult situation, especially in the last weeks of the lecture period immediately prior to examinations. Unfortunately, efforts to provide a transitional period for affected students have not been successful.

Library services:

We have received welcome news from the ministry that, subject to certain infection prevention precautions, it is possible to pick up literature ordered from the university libraries without having to provide proof of vaccination or recovery status. The University Library will be implementing this new regulation at the earliest possible opportunity. Please refer to information provided on the University Library's homepage.

Examination participation regulations:

As previously announced, the 3G+ rule applies to participation in examinations. At our university, however, we currently assume that the extremely limited availability of PCR tests in the Bamberg area and the correspondingly long waiting period until results are available may prevent students from obtaining a PCR test certificate in time for their examinations. Until further notice, students who do not fulfil the 2G criteria (vaccinated or recovered) can therefore also take part in examinations after presenting a valid negative result of a rapid antigen test administered by an authorised testing centre.

Examination preparation opportunities for students:

Especially during the upcoming examination period, students require sufficient studying and preparation opportunities at the university. For this reason, the University Library has already increased the number of workstations in branch libraries 4 and 5. Additionally, I would like to point out once again the possibility of using the established study rooms (see FAQs at <https://www.uni-bamberg.de/en/health-management/coronavirus/faq-for-university-members/faq-for-students/>) and open lecture and seminar rooms in which no courses are currently in session.

Reporting a coronavirus infection:

If you test positive for coronavirus, I would urge you once again to report the infection to the instructors whose courses you have attended, as well as to Ms. Ziegmann from the Safety Office (by phone at 0951/8631096 or by email at sicherheitswesen@uni-bamberg.de). This will allow us to assess the extent to which the implementation of quarantine measures are required in connection with the university.

Vaccination services for English-speaking students:

The Bamberg Vaccination Centre is currently offering uncomplicated vaccination services at the Concert Hall with no prior registration required (<https://www.uni-bamberg.de/en/health-management/coronavirus/vaccination-offer-for-university-members/>). These have proved particularly helpful for English-speaking students. If problems do arise, English-speaking students from all degree programmes can contact the student representatives (*Fachschaft*) of the Faculty of Human Sciences and Education at 0951/863-1229 (Mon.: 12 – 2 p.m., Tue.: 2 – 4 p.m., Wed.: 4 – 6 p.m., Thur.: 12 – 2 p.m., Fri.: 12 – 2 p.m.). Alternatively, they can also send an email to corona.stuve@uni-bamberg.de. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the university's Student Representation for this support.

In addition, I would like to draw your attention once again to the following ongoing surveys:

Survey concerning sustainability in teaching:

The University of Bamberg Sustainability Office (nachhaltigkeitsbuero@uni-bam-berg.de) is relying on your help: it is systematically recording how sustainability issues can be strengthened in the realm of teaching. Your opinion matters. Until 31 January 2022, you can fill in the short 5-minute survey (in German) and contribute to advancing pertinent policies at our university: <https://www.soscisurvey.de/nachhaltigkeitstudiumunibamberg/>

Academic environment evaluation:

I have already referred to the extension of the period for participation in the academic environment evaluation until Monday, 31 January 2022 in a separate email. I would like to repeat my request for your participation.

Sincerely,

Stefan Hörmann