

## Informations for students to the summer semester – Uni-list-e-mail from Prof. Andreas Musil, 30 March 2020

Dear students,

Since you have already been informed about important general conditions for your studies by the President in his e-mail and video message, I would like to use this message to address important individual questions and explain them in more detail. Once again, I would like to say in advance that we intend to organize the coming semester in such a way that you can continue your studies according to your existing study plan. You have certainly taken note of the [FAQ](#) published immediately after the first necessary corona-related measures were implemented. This is where we always provide you with the latest developments and decisions. I sincerely hope that the majority of your questions will be answered on these pages. In any case, please do not hesitate to contact us via [corona-studierende@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:corona-studierende@uni-potsdam.de).

### 1) Registration for courses

Under normal circumstances, you would have been able to register for your summer semester courses via PULS starting on April 1. This date has been moved to April 20. This information has now also been published: <https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/studium/dates-and-deadlines/important-dates-and-deadlines-during-your-studies>

### 2) Online teaching

It is now clear that teaching operations at the University of Potsdam will begin on April 20. Unfortunately, under the given circumstances, it was not possible to provide separate dates for the beginning of the instructional period and the beginning of course registration. We currently proceed on the assumption that teaching cannot take place on-site for the time being. That is why the teaching staff is currently preparing intensively in order to be able to offer digital teaching and learning formats, which may also lead to major changes and rescheduling of the previously published course offer. Therefore, we would ask you to take note of the offers in PULS or in the course catalog from April 20 onwards. Admission to the courses will then take place starting on April 24 in the afternoon, so that you will be able to register on an equal footing for the entire period until then (April 20, 2020-April 24, 2020). Even after that date, registration and admission will still be possible. The deadline for this is May 10.

### 3) Communication with teaching staff

Due to the fact that the start of courses and the registration takes place at the same time, the teaching staff cannot contact you in advance. I would therefore ask you to pay more attention than usual to the remarks section ("Bemerkungen"). If applicable, you will find information from the teaching staff about the first event there.

### 4) Examinations

It was clear to us that with the spread of the pandemic it had to be left up to you and the teaching staff to decide whether or not to conduct examinations. In the same way, we also made a conscious decision not to cancel examinations across the board. After all, this meant that many final examinations could still be held, for example.

Overall, we assume that the goodwill arrangements have saved the 2019/20 winter semester for most of you. For those of you who may have 'lost' a semester because laboratory work could not be completed, the exams were cancelled at short notice or necessary literature was not available, we are unfortunately not yet able to offer a final solution. Nevertheless, there is still a positive development, namely that you should not suffer any financial disadvantages in terms of Bafög funding due to the pandemic.

If you are currently concerned about the exact date when examinations can be rescheduled, we can assure you that the teaching staff will do everything in their power to set a date as soon as possible. However, it is not yet clear when on-site examinations can be carried out again. I therefore ask you for your patience in that regard.

#### 5) Technical issues

I am aware of the challenge that the ad hoc conversion of teaching into online formats presents for all those involved. The university directorate, with the support of all the departments involved, is working tirelessly to find solutions. New licenses are being purchased, and you will be informed about them by the teaching staff as required. The server capacities have been increased. However, we are closely monitoring developments in this respect. The teaching staff have been and will continue to be supported in their activities with numerous measures for the conversion of their teaching. Data protection issues will continue to be respected under the new conditions. In the end, we hope to be able to offer you a successful summer semester, albeit with completely different preconditions.

Whenever there are major new milestones, the President or I will contact you personally. In the meantime, I would ask you to regularly take a look at the [FAQ](#) page cited above. After all, much is still in motion. We are aware that you are preoccupied with questions such as the transition from Bachelor's to Master's programs in the winter semester and the requirements to be met. Rest assured: we will do everything in our power to protect you from any disadvantages. I have experienced the last few weeks as incredibly constructive as well as accommodating and goal-oriented. I am therefore certain that we will manage to find satisfactory solutions together. I thank you very much for your understanding and the very good cooperation.

Kind regards,

Prof. Dr. Andreas Musil  
Vice President for Teaching and Studies