

Laboratory courses possible again – Uni-list-e-mail from Prof. Andreas Musil, 8 March 2021

Dear Sir or Madam, dear students, dear colleagues,

The considerable patience that has been demanded of all of us for months now seems to be slowly paying off. The small steps taken in the [seventh SARS-CoV-2 containment ordinance](#) (EindV), which was published over the weekend, are a sign of this: While there were no developments in the previous versions for university teaching, we can now see that the limitations on attendance have been removed for courses that “absolutely require on-site attendance” (Section 19 subsection 1 no. 2 EindV). For the University of Potsdam, the details are as follows:

1. **Laboratory courses:** Generally possible with capacities in accordance with the hygiene concept and the associated use of evaluated and [cleared laboratories](#).
2. **Music practice:** It is now possible again to sing and play wind instruments on site in the context of teaching, but only in one-to-one teaching formats. Other music practice courses are allowed with a maximum of 5 participants.
3. **Sports practice:** Opening scenarios for courses will be communicated in a timely manner by the Sports Department.
4. **Excursions** in Brandenburg are possible in compliance with the containment ordinance. The maximum number of participants must be chosen in such a way that the required social distancing can be practiced at all times. Rules of the containment ordinance pertaining to open-air events are to be applied.
5. **All other courses requiring attendance**, even with up to 5 students, are still not to be conducted in on-site formats at the UP. The respective courses are to be taught digitally.
6. The 50-person **maximum** per room still applies.

For the time being, there are no plans to use **rapid tests** for teaching and examination purposes at the UP and such tests will not be required or provided in other individual cases. However, as the testing situation is currently prone to rapid change, adjustments may be necessary in the coming weeks, depending on developments at the federal and state levels.

Due to the special burdens caused by the pandemic, we have decided not to apply the provisions on **examination deadlines in 2021**. As a result, no invitations will be issued for departmental advising in 2021 when students reach the examination deadline. Even with extension decisions that have already been made and for which the deadline is March 31, 2021, Sept. 30, 2021, or March 31, 2022, there will be no consequences for your studies. By contrast, programs that have been discontinued or are being phased out are not eligible for extensions. The introduction of individual standard periods of study will not change this either. For more details on this and other topics in the teaching and studies context, please refer to the [FAQ](#) section. Dear students, I would still like to motivate you to focus on the completion of your degree and make plans for the further course of your studies leading toward graduation. If you ever need any help in this regard, please contact the respective advisory services!

I would like to ask all of you to exercise caution with regard to this slight easing of restrictions. It must remain our goal to organize teaching and examinations in such a responsible way that on-site courses at the UP can serve as a good example for other opening measures. At the moment, this also includes prioritizing digital offers so that on-site courses can still be approved when absolutely necessary.

Kind regards,

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