

Challenges of the winter semester – Employees-list-mail from Prof. Andreas Musil, 8 July 2021

Dear Sir or Madam, dear colleagues,

We are still proceeding on the assumption that we will be able to operate at half the room capacity in the winter semester. The current incidences point in that direction, but it remains to be seen what the ordinances in effect in October will permit, of course.

For us to be able to accommodate the wishes of many colleagues, but also of many students, for face-to-face teaching on campus, your cooperation will be essential. Let us all stand together to make this happen! In addition to the continuing complex and sometimes uncertain planning for your individual courses, this also means that you might need to defer requests for preferred days and rooms in the winter semester and provide on-site teaching during off-peak times.

Due to space limitations, we will need to make the most of the hours we have per day, now more than ever, and offer courses between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. or even 8 p.m.

For curriculum planners in particular, the flexibility of all of us is essential at the moment. I would therefore like to remind you of our prioritized list for on-site courses:

- 1) Courses for first-semester students
- 2) Courses for second- and third-semester students
- 3) Practical lab courses and other courses that absolutely require on-site attendance (e.g. sports, music, art)
- 4) Courses for small groups that accompany digital lectures
- 5) Mandatory courses or required electives
- 6) Demonstration lectures
- 7) Lectures

I believe that we can provide a realistic and well-rounded curriculum if we plan in this order. However, in addition to some necessary consultation with one another, we will all need to be on the same page and put aside any preferences.

To avoid misunderstandings, I would also like to point out once again, with reference to my e-mail of June 11, that digital-only formats can still be offered. The prerequisite for this is that no on-site teaching is possible due to the prioritization outlined above and/or due to the lack of available space, or that your didactic concept has been developed accordingly. Please submit the corresponding brief justification to the Office of the Dean of Studies. Efforts will certainly be made there to find agreeable solutions for both sides.

In recent months, we have had to give up many freedoms in many respects to benefit other individuals and the community. However, public discourse is now encouraging us in our objective to reclaim these freedoms at the university, while taking all necessary safety measures into account. We are therefore eager to face this challenge – and I am certain that we have your support.

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