

## Room situation – Employees-list-mail from Prof. Dr. Andreas Musil vom, 05 November 2021

Dear Sir or Madam, dear students, dear colleagues,

The instructional period started two weeks ago. Now is the time for us to summarize the feedback we received and draw conclusions from it. Overall, we see a heterogeneous picture, as was to be expected. We are happy to report that the majority of our students and faculty have found their return to face-to-face formats to be full of advantages and enjoyable moments. At the same time, we have been made aware of the dangers that arise when many people come together. We have always emphasized that care must be taken to ensure that classrooms are used only with the permitted number of people. However, we also understand that this cannot be calculated and predicted in all cases.

Therefore, we would like to inform you that, in order to optimize security while at the same time maintaining face-to-face offers, the following will now apply:

- **The strategy of using instructional spaces with a checkerboard layout remains in place.** Masks are not required in these cases. However, it is up to each individual to decide for themselves whether they feel more comfortable wearing a mask, and to act accordingly. We would like to encourage you to comply with requests that masks be worn in courses, even in situations that do not require it.
- If there are more students wishing to attend a course than the checkerboard capacity allows, teaching staff may accommodate this up to the regular total capacity of the room. **If the distance of 1 meter cannot be maintained, however, masks are mandatory for all.** This mitigating exemption is made possible by the provisions of the current regulations on the handling of COVID-19 (Umgangsv).

For you, dear students, there is the acute problem of where to stay between classes. We also gathered this information from some of the comments. Unfortunately, we can no longer maintain our offer of booking rooms for study groups, as the rooms are now needed for face-to-face teaching again. However, we are very happy to remind you of the [Mobile.UP app](#). In the category “Free rooms” (“Freie Räume”) you will find a room for the period you are looking for at the location in question, if available. Please be sure to book in through QRoniton and follow the rules regarding hygiene, distance, masks, and airing of the rooms.

We would like to apologize to all those who were looking forward to face-to-face teaching and now do not feel it has been realized. There are many reasons for this, which was confirmed when we took a closer look at individual cases. As evidenced by the expansion of our room capacities outlined above, we are and will continue to be committed to bringing face-to-face teaching back on to our campuses. Nevertheless, we are still in a winter semester marked by the pandemic, so responsible restrictions must be implemented in every respect.

**Should there be a COVID-19 case among students within the context of university courses, students**

**and teaching staff will not have to take action**, since we are working with a hygiene concept that prevents the spread of infections. However, as a supportive measure, we would still like to ask you, dear students, to send a short message to [dez2@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:dez2@uni-potsdam.de). The relevant health authorities are aware of the cases and will contact the University of Potsdam if necessary. With the help of QRoniton, the affected individuals will then be contacted. You can find out more about this and other current and essential information in the [FAQ section on studies and teaching](#).

I want to close with this urgent appeal to you: Please get vaccinated and follow the rules (be either vaccinated, tested, or recovered; enter your data for contact tracing; keep minimum distances, wear masks, air out rooms, and follow the hygiene regulations) even if this leads to severe personal restrictions! Let us work towards this common goal: Face-to-face teaching is the norm at the University of Potsdam!

Sincerely,

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