"2G" as of January 2022 – Uni-list-mail from Prof. Oliver Günther and from Prof. Dr. Andreas Musil, 6 December 2021

Dear students,
dear colleagues,
dear employees,

We are reaching out to you again today to inform you that we will be conducting academic face-to-face teaching at the University of Potsdam under “2G” conditions starting January 3, 2022. This means that only vaccinated or recovered individuals will have access to our courses. Let us briefly explain why we are taking this step.

The ongoing difficult pandemic situation is an enormous challenge for teaching in schools and higher education institutions. Due to the negative experiences with largely or even completely closed teaching facilities, especially with regard to the psychological situation of our students, we want to avoid such measures. The current vaccination rate among students and faculty allows us to continue to provide face-to-face teaching – which has already been reduced to a large extent. However, to further reduce the risk of infection, 2G seems imperative to us. With four weeks to go until 2G is introduced, non-vaccinated individuals have time to reconsider their situation. We once again urge all non-vaccinated individuals who have no certified medical condition keeping them from doing so: Please get vaccinated! Now!

As far as alternative online options for students are concerned, we certainly welcome the efforts of our teaching staff members in this regard. But we want to be completely honest: It will not be possible to offer all courses without a loss of quality in both face-to-face and a digital formats. Our institutions of higher education are not equipped for this, neither in terms of personnel nor in terms of space. In addition, not all types of courses are suitable for a digital format.

Despite the adverse circumstances, we wish you all a wonderful Advent season, happy holidays, and a restful time leading up to the new year.

Kind regards,

Prof. Oliver Günther, Ph.D.                     Prof. Dr. Andreas Musil
President                                      Vice President for Studies and Teaching