

Corona Virus Update | Current information e-mail to all students of Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences, Monday April 23rd, 2020

Dear students,

we hope you were able to relax a little bit throughout the weekend despite the taut atmosphere, maybe take a walk in the forest and raise your spirits for our second week on “online-mode”.

Sometimes, people ask us why we do not cancel the semester entirely. We answer them that our solidarity and our reliability are directed especially at you, our students. If we cancelled the semester entirely, the burden would be mainly on you. Around 30% of our students finance their studies through jobs. Most of these jobs have been cancelled. An additional high percentage is being supported by parents and family. And although taking one or two semesters longer to complete your studies does not mean a stain in your CVs, it means a financial strain for many families. In addition, it is completely unclear, how long the situation will remain the way it is at this moment. We are convinced that currently, online teaching and learning is the best option.

Although we can only take it day by day, we hope that you feel informed transparently and as comprehensive as possible, as this is our expression of solidarity with you.

Today's topics:

Order of Protection (restriction of social contacts)

The federal, state and local authorities have agreed upon a common order of protection which means that people are not allowed to show in public in groups larger than 2. Exceptions are valid for families who live together in one household.

What does that mean for our university? Necessary meetings can take place as long as people keep a distance of at least 1.5 meters. We would still like to ask you to refrain from any real meetings and to switch to video conferencing instead. Working tools are in place. Again, groups larger than two people are not allowed in public anymore – the police have inspected the campuses several times already on Sunday.

Copyright and Data Protection Issues: Recordings of Online Lectures

We would like to point out that – especially in online lectures through Zoom – unauthorized recordings are not permitted. Only your teachers have the right to record their lectures and to make them available to you later on. Our eLearning Competence Center is currently in the process of identifying a learning platform that is suitable for this purpose.

Final Exams:

Due to the current state regulations to avoid social contacts and for the protection of our students and teachers, no oral exams will take place at Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences at least until April 19th, 2020. Exams that were already timed will be cancelled by the Office of the University Registrar. Any third attempt oral exams will not take place until face-to-face classes resume. Until then, no new appointments for such exams can be made, either. We are currently deciding whether it will be necessary to extend the period in which students can make their registrations for exams. You will be informed on this on time. If you had scheduled an appointment to have a look into your graded exams, we have to ask you to also defer this appointment.

In the summer semester 2020, all mandatory registrations to exams will be cancelled. If you need to repeat an exam and would like to try the exam this, semester, you can do so voluntarily.

Offers of the Learning Center for Students

StudySuccessCounseling: Students who would like to work on their study skills can continue to schedule appointments with the LearningCenter. The respective contact persons are still available by phone or e-mail.

If you schedule an appointment by phone: While face-to-face-classes are at recess, your request will be handled according to its urgency. Sometimes, counseling can take place immediately, in other cases a new appointment will be scheduled within the next days. Counseling takes place by phone or by video conference. After the counseling session, additional materials can be made available to students for further self-study. Please find the contact persons here: <https://www.hs-osnabrueck.de/de/learningcenter/>

Trainings in „StudiumPlus“:

Since all face-to-face classes are at recess, the trainings in the program „StudiumPlus“ cannot take place, either. The LearningCenter is in touch with external trainers to check if some trainings can take place online, or if they can be re-scheduled. Students who have registered to specific trainings will be informed in due time. Therefore, registrations through the online database are still open and students are still encouraged to make use of these offers. E-mails that have been automatically generated by the database, can be ignored until further notice.

If you have urgent questions on any issues related to “StudiumPlus”, please contact Ms. Anna Zaczynska (Tel.: 0541 969-2003) or Mr. Henning Czech (Tel.: 0541 969-2299). Link to „StudiumPlus“: <https://www.hs-osnabrueck.de/de/studiumplus/>

Beware of any Phishing-Mails:

The IT Service Center (ITSC) informs us that the corona crisis does not halt cybercrime. Currently, a number of e-mails have occurred that promote quick shipment of disinfectants, protective masks, etc.. Please delete such mails immediately and do not under any circumstances open any attachments.

Dear students, together we are entering into a second demanding week of „online-mode“. We wish you good health, but also courage and curiosity in coping with this time. This week, you will receive further e-mail on Wednesday and Friday with news from your university.

Your University Steering Committee