

**Corona virus | Current information e-mail to students of Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences,
Wednesday, April 15th 2020**

Dear students,

We hope that you were able to enjoy the Easter Holidays, to relax a little and find new strength. This first newsletter after the Easter break is intended to introduce you to our thoughts on the medium and long-term planning.

Surely, you have been following the media in the past days where experts, commentators and politicians discussed their ideas on whether the restrictions of the corona virus crisis should be upheld or relaxed.

We have done so and according to our own analysis, we do not believe that we will have the chance to return to our normal teaching and learning any time soon. Politicians and political advisors alike in all possible scenarios name universities among the last institutions to return to a normal schedule. The German National Academy of Sciences "Leopoldina" comments: "Universities and universities of applied sciences should finish their summer semesters in online-/ home-learning mode.

Therefore, at our university, face-to-face classes will remain at recess until May 3rd, 2020.

All extraordinary regulations that have been communicated to you since March 12th, 2020, will remain in place until revocation. Studies, teaching and cooperation will continue to take place in online-mode. Important work in our administration and our research projects can only be upheld under strict hygiene regulations (keeping distance, one person per office only, etc.).

In order to guarantee all of us health protection as well as feasible study and working conditions, we must prepare different possible scenarios of hybrid forms of teaching and learning (face-to-face and distance learning).

Your faculty leaders will soon begin to send you questionnaires and analyses in order to address the question how formats that require face-to-face instruction can be taken up under security measures, and to develop corresponding concepts. The same type of planning will be realized with regard to exams at the end of the semester.

In sum, the summer semester 2020 will be taught in online-mode with the exception of only a few classes. We will inform you on time whether face-to-face classes might be resumed.

The federal and state governments strongly recommend to wear protective face masks in public. In order to keep up the workings of the university in teaching and research, we recommend the same. The university has already ordered protective masks. Since this has proven to be difficult, we would also like to ask you to buy or produce protective masks individually. On the internet, you will find many good examples on how to make your own mask.

We would also like to express our gratitude to you all for your commitment, your optimism and your solidarity with our university. Those of you who keep up the workings of the university under difficult conditions, those of you who have to care for children or elderly people at home, those of you who have learned to work with online-media in difficult circumstances within a very short time, those who have developed new ideas and those who have shown the flexibility to change their ways in this time of emergency: We thank you sincerely!

And we have to remember that we will have to deal with all these difficulties for much longer than we thought initially. So thank you in advance for your perseverance!

Und auch das muss uns allen klar sein: wir werden mit diesen schwierigen Bedingungen länger

This fits our musical clip after the Easter weekend:

Our student Sophie Knops, specialization of popular music, 4th semester, used the Easter weekend to, for the first time, play a livestream concert in a big hall without an audience under her artist name Sophie Chassee. She comments: "I was very excited and honored to open the virtual street music sequel in the Lagerhalle. For me, it was the first real live-stream concert and so I was very nervous. To deal with the silence of the ghost audience was a factor that was hard to deal with. Then there are the technical conditions that have an influence on the quality of the concert. But it all worked beautifully and I was able to collect a really high amount of donations. I am excited that the Lagerhalle has initiated this series of concerts because it is a very important alternative stage for us musicians at the moment."

Here is the link to her concert: <https://youtu.be/1bj1C9OATJQ>

We plan to send our next newsletter on Friday!

Until we wish you all the best and that you stay safe and healthy!

Your Universty Steering Committee