

Corona Virus Update | Current Information Email to Students of Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences, Thursday, December 17th 2020

Dear Students,

with this last 2020 newsletter we would like to say „thank you“ to you for your huge commitment that has carried our university through the pandemic so far since March. Together, we overcame this year's challenges. Not everything worked perfectly, nevertheless, we feel that we can be proud of our achievements and the courage and flexibility it took to make them happen.

As you know, it is our aim to get you acquainted with our plans for the near future. Therefore, today, we will give you information on the upcoming exam period. Naturally, we will offer further information on this topic at the beginning of January when we have a clearer idea of the overall situation.

Our Topics:

No face-to-face classes nor access to university buildings

Until January 10th 2021, there will be no access to university buildings and no face-to-face classes. All online lectures, however, will take place as planned. Except for the Institute of Music and the libraries, all buildings will remain closed. Students will not have access to any learning landscapes or seminar rooms.

Exam Period to Start on January 23rd 2021

Written exams that were originally planned to take place on campus will take place as planned. Many of you already know the procedures and there know that some exams will take place in unusual places. Strict hygienic rules will apply so that it is important to be there ahead of time. Since this worked well in the summer semester, we will repeat these procedures. Of course, in January, we will have to further specify these procedures in order to be able to also enable students who are especially vulnerable to take exams.

Our procedures for oral exams will be specified in January when we can analyze the situation more comprehensively.

Our primary goal is to enable all students to take all the exams they have planned to take.

Extension of Standard Period of Study

The federal state of Lower Saxony has decided that the standard period of study will be extended by one semester for all students who have been matriculated during summer semester 2020, winter semester 2020/21 and summer semester 2021 and who did not take a sabbatical semester during this time. This has a positive effect on federal student loans (BAFöG) as well as on your study credit (the number of semesters you can study without paying any long term study fees). The university is currently clarifying any details with the state government. As soon as we have the details, we'll inform you on whether any steps need to be taken. Therefore, we ask you for your patience on this topic.

Libraries

The libraries continue to be opened until December 18th 2020. From Saturday, December 19th 2020 until Sunday, January 3rd 2021, all university libraries are closed. You can return books until the end of the opening hours on December 18th 2020. From December 16th 2020 until January 8th 2021, no overdue notices will be sent. Also, loans will not be extended automatically. Therefore, if your loans expire during the outlined period, please make sure you extend your loans through your account on time.

During the opening hours, only single persons may enter the library to loan books. Strict hygienic rules apply. Please turn to the library website (only in German) in order to receive up-to-date information: <https://www.bib.hs-osnabrueck.de/#c8958517> .

And Last but not Least

Should you find the time and interest to read about the university's achievements in applied research, we would like to recommend our Research Report "How we participate in creating a sustainable future" to you. It was published today and contains articles on the following topics (only in German): What is the view of Friday for Future activists on our university? Is there an acceptance of autonomous driving? Which topics are hot in agricultural systems of the future? How do start-up companies cope with the challenges of the pandemic? You can find the report on our website: <https://onlinemagazin.hs-osnabrueck.de/index.php?catalog=forschungsbericht-2020>

Christmas Message of the President of Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences

On every Sunday of Advent, the university opens a door of its virtual advent calendar. This week's video-item which was produced by the campus reporters Hilke and Timo contains the Christmas message of our university's president, Prof. Dr. Andreas Bertram:

<https://youtu.be/3yE4H8Z4-D4>

Dear Students of Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences,

We wish you all good times and festive Holidays, even if these events, too, are restricted this year. Have a happy new year (without the fireworks this time) and enjoy the quiet change of years. 2020 has been exhausting – still we look forward to spending 2021 with you! We are convinced that it will be better than 2020 and we hope that you will join us in this optimism. But most of all: Stay healthy!

With best regards

Your University Steering Committee