

Coronavirus Update | Current Information Email to Students of Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences, Friday, July 16th 2021

Dear Students,

The end of the summer semester's examination period is almost there. The third corona semester has been demanding on us once again.

Today's newsletter is the last in this semester and so, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you! We feel that we have dealt with this third corona semester really well. Of course, not everything went smoothly – when people have to make decision quickly, mistakes happen. But in comparison with many other universities, our results are good. We have been able to offer almost all the exams that we planned and our students have been studying very successfully. Through the student bodies and representations, you have told us that you are satisfied with how we've handled the pandemic so far. We sincerely hope that we have created a study environment that allows you to make it through the pandemic. And we thank you very much for your participation and your input.

The weeks to come will hopefully be a time when we can all relax, renew our energies, and begin to make decisions with regard to the winter semester 21/22. Here are today's topics:

Preview: Winter Semester 2021/22

As we have already told you, we still believe that we will be able to return to a semester with face-to-face classes. At least, this is how we are currently planning the semester. Of course, we cannot predict the pandemic situation in the fall. Should there be new restrictions, we expect to be able to quickly change into a semester with online and face-to-face classes. In this scenario, there would be only small groups on campus with strict hygienic rules and more classes online.

With regard to hygienic rules: In the winter semester, our concept will be based on three pillars: persons who have been fully vaccinated, persons who have fully recovered during the past 6 months, and persons who are being tested on a regular basis. Those who have been fully vaccinated, can participate in classes and other events without any further procedures. The same is true for those who have fully recovered from an infection during the past six months. All other persons must test themselves twice per week and confirm that in writing when entering the university. Students will have to pay for their own tests then.

From August 16th 2021 onwards, all buildings of the university will be open again.

No more obligation to wear a mask on outside premises

Once again, we would like to state that in correspondence with public orders, there will be no more obligation to wear a mask on campus when outside the buildings. Halls 1 and 2 on Lingen Campus are considered outside areas, as well. Inside the buildings, though, everybody will be obligated to wear a mask. If you are in an office and seated, and if you can keep your distance (at least 1,5m and 6.5m² of space per person), you will no longer have to wear your mask.

Inside the buildings, the obligation to wear a masks is also mandatory in situations where you cannot keep your distance, e.g. when sitting in a recreational or learning area or in a kitchen. More detailed information can always be found on the [corona website](#).

Opening Hours of the Lingen and Haste Libraries

From July 26th until August 22nd, the libraries on the Haste and Lingen campuses will be opened Mon through Fri from 9 a.m. through 4 p.m.. Both libraries will be closed on Saturdays.

The library on Westerberg Campus continues to be open Mon through Fri from 9 a.m. through 8 p.m. (with full service until 7 p.m.) and from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Saturdays. You will find up-to-date information here: <https://www.bib.hs-osnabrueck.de> (Website in German)

Opening Hours of Mensa during the Winter Semester

Whereas the Westerberg Mensa will remain open during the summer, the other two mensas will open with the beginning of the winter semester. Mensa Lingen will re-open on August 23rd, Mensa Haste on October 4th, and the Caprivi Cafeteria on September 27th. Please keep an eye on the [website of the Studentenwerk](#).

Getting your Vaccination

The past weeks have shown that there are adequate amounts of COVID-19 vaccines available. From August 1st onwards, there will be opportunities for members of the universities in Niedersachsen to get their vaccinations. If you are still unsure whether you should get a vaccination, please consider that the Ministry for Education and Culture and the German Rector's Conference say: "The most important weapon to fight the pandemic is to get your vaccination! The more people are fully vaccinated, the more options the universities will have. We therefore as all members of all universities (students, teachers and staff alike) to make use of vaccination campaigns offered in their cities and regions. Our goal is to make universities places of discussion and learning again, where scientific dialogue and human encounters go hand in hand."

And as state before: If you have not been fully vaccinated by the beginning of the winter semester, you will have to test yourself twice per week and pay for the tests by yourself.

In Osnabrück's vaccination center, from Monday, July 19th onwards, there will be no need to make an appointment to receive your first or second vaccination. If you have already been vaccinated once, you can prepone your second vaccination un-bureaucratically. All citizens of Osnabrück, who had their first vaccination with the Astrazeneca vaccine will be guaranteed to receive a second vaccination with Moderna or BionTech (unless you explicitly want a second Astrazeneca vaccination). The only condition is that your first vaccination dates back at least 6 weeks.

The city of Osnabrück expects that there will be waiting time, especially at the beginning of this campaign. Vaccinations will be administered Mon through Fri from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m.. There will be two entrances to the vaccination center. To have a look at whether there are long lines, you can check [this website](#).

If you make an appointment beforehand, you can overtake this who are waiting in order to be on time. In order to speed up the process, please bring these forms filled and signed: [Information Form](#) for mRNA vaccines or [Information Form for vector vaccines](#). Also, please fill out and sign this form: [Health history](#) (in German). On the second form you give your consent to receive the vaccination.

For students in Lingen, there will also be a vaccination campaign; „Geimpft in die Ferien“ where children and teenagers can obtain BionTech vaccination. For further information, please have look at this website: <https://www.emsland.de/buerger-behoerde/aktuell/pressemitteilungen/landkreis-emsland-beteiligt-sich-kinderimpfaktion.html> (in German).

If you have questions, advice or complaints, please contact kommunikation@hs-osnabrueck.de. Our colleagues in the Communications Department will forward your comments to the people in charge. **Our next newsletter will arrive in September.** Dear Students, we wish you wonderful summer!

With best regards
Your University Steering Committee