

## Coronavirus Update | Current Information Email to Students of Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences, Friday January 21<sup>st</sup> 2022

Dear Students,

some of you sent us questions since the last newsletter that we would like to answer for all of you.

### **Question: According to the corona ordinance „Coronatest im Prüfungszeitraum WiSe 2021/22“, I have to do a test under supervision. What does that mean?**

In order to participate in exams in the coming weeks, you need to present a negative test result (PCR or PoC antigen) in order to access the exam room. State legislation defines the rules for the validity as well as the type of tests that are acceptable.

**One rule states that PoC antigen tests under supervision can be accepted until the next day even if they are older than 24 hours at the time of access into the exam room.**

The [same legislation \(§7\) states in great detail](#) (in German) which tests may be done under supervision. Supervisor can be your employer (if you work besides studying). The person supervising the test may not be a family member unless this family member has had a special training in supervising self tests. Therefore, we advise you to get your tests in testing centers – we fell this is the safest method. **All students who wish to participate in exams must present a test, independent of their 3G status. Even students who have been vaccinated three times must present the negative test result!**

The test result must presented at the entrance into the building. If you cannot present a negative test result, you will not be allowed to enter the building. Consequently, you cannot participate in the exam.

### **Which masks are permitted during the exams?**

All students who wish to participate in an exam, are obligated to wear an FFP2 mask.

### **Will the time allowed for exams be extended?**

For every hour of the exam, ten minutes will be added. As an example: if your exam takes four hours, the exam time will be extended to four hours and forty minutes.

### **For which reasons and until when can students file an application for an alternative online exam if they cannot participate in exams on site?**

Students who cannot participate in exams on site for reasons in connection with the pandemic, can take their exams online and under video supervision. To do so, you must apply.

The online exams will take place at the same time as on site exams. The following three reasons are valid (for a link to the application form, please see below):

- **At the time of the exam, you are under official quarantine imposed on you by the health authorities. Should you have been tested positive but the order to quarantine yourself has not yet been issued, please send us your positive corona test (PCR, PoC antigen test issued by a testing center or supervised self-tests can be accepted).**
- **Due to a relevant prior condition, you may not get vaccinated against COVID-19.**
- **You share a household with a person who cannot get vaccinated against COVID-19 due to a relevant prior condition.**

Applications for alternative online exams can be filed within given deadlines. Your application must arrive before 1 p.m. on the workday prior to the exam. Otherwise, necessary preparations cannot be completed. Therefore, it is advisable to do a test before 1 p.m. on the day prior to the exam.

Students who obtain a positive test result on or shortly before the day of the exam, and who cannot apply for an alternative online exam on time, cannot take the exam this semester but have to wait for next semester. Illness on the day of an exam is a circumstance that falls in the responsibility of the student (just like having an accident on the way to an exam, etc.) and does not constitute a mandatory reason to grant a new exam date in the same semester. The exam must then be taken in the following semester. Should you incur such a situation, you can try to speak to your respective faculty to see if a solution can be found but remember that your faculty / institute is not obligated to offer an alternative exam.

Further information, contact persons and forms to apply for alternative exams can be found here:

<https://servicedesk.hs-osnabrueck.de/servicedesk/customer/portal/2/create/155>

Details on the procedures regarding alternative exams under video supervision can be found here: [OSCA-Infothek](#) (in German).

### **If all buildings are locked, how can I access the library?**

All library buildings (as all buildings where student services are located – e.g. service desk, etc.) are accessible during opening hours.

And one more information, because there have been questions regarding this topic:

#### **Addition prolongation of individual study time**

An ordinance issued by the ministry of education dating from January 13<sup>th</sup> 2022 provides that the individual study time will be extended by one semester. This means:

For every semester between summer semester 2020 and winter semester 2021/22 that a student has been matriculated, the individual study time will be extended by one semester.

This regulation is especially important for students who obtain federal aid (BAFöG), but it also means that the time when you have to start paying long-term study fees will be delayed. If you are an international student and have questions about this, please send an email to

[international@hs-osnabrueck.de](mailto:international@hs-osnabrueck.de)

If you have questions, comments or advice that is helpful for all of us, please send them to [kommunikation@hs-osnabrueck.de](mailto:kommunikation@hs-osnabrueck.de).

Our colleagues in the Department of University Communications will forward them to those in charge.

Yours cordially,  
the University Steering Committee