

13.01.2021

Spring semester to start in distance learning

Dear students, lecturers and employees

I hope you all had a healthy start into the new year and were able to recharge your batteries over the holidays. We need this to continue to stand up against the coronavirus. The number of infections is still high, and today the Federal Council has tightened the measures once again. Store closures, stricter rules in offices and more home office are intended to reduce the number of infections. We are also making our contribution to this. At the UAS Grisons, the principle of home office continues to apply. Where it is urgently necessary for operational reasons and/or agreed with the supervisor, work can be done on site. Lecturers can use the classroom at the UAS Grisons within the timetable framework, so that distance learning can be offered in a technically higher quality. Students can continue to use the services of the university of applied sciences, such as the library.

Remote exams

As already announced, due to the current pandemic situation, the final module exams will be conducted "remotely" at the end of January/beginning of February. For staff and lecturers, detailed information is available on the intranet (in German only). Students and teaching staff will find checklists for the procedure of the oral and written examinations in German and English on the corresponding [coronavirus sections](#) of the university website ("What does this mean for me as a student, ... as a lecturer"). It is important that all students have given their consent to the declaration of autonomy and the recordings before their examinations.

Prorectorate/BLC strongly recommend lecturers to take part in one of the exam simulations if you are taking a remote exam for the first time. The dates are listed in Moodle "virtual FHGR". We have laid the groundwork for a successful completion of this fall semester despite these difficult conditions. I wish everyone the best of luck already today.

Starting the spring semester virtually

In view of the still critical situation and the unchanged decisions of the Federal Council for the universities, we will have to continue in distance learning and start the spring semester 2021 in this mode for our Bachelor and consecutive Master degrees. This decision will be valid until at least March 31, 2021. Distance learning will also continue in continuing education for the time being. However, as soon as relaxations are possible, a return to face-to-face teaching will be sought there. The university management will decide on the further procedure by mid-February at the latest and communicate accordingly.

Excursions can also not be carried out until further notice. In our study programmes, this applies to domestic trips until the end of March, and for trips abroad certainly until May 31, 2021. In continuing education, domestic excursions will also not take place until March 31, 2021, and those abroad until April 30, 2021. Here, too, the university management will decide

on possible relaxations as soon as the situation permits. No physical events will be held at the UAS Grisons until the end of March either.

Taking into account the further course of the epidemiological situation, we will endeavor to reintroduce forms of face-to-face teaching as soon as possible. Especially for our students in their first year, the personal exchange among each other is very important at the beginning of their studies. Therefore, on the one hand, we strive to offer the greatest possible planning security, and on the other hand, we want to meet student needs as quickly as possible through flexible planning.

Commitment to society

Let's make sure that we don't neglect our interpersonal relationships during this crisis, which has already been going on for a long time. We can also draw strength from personal relationships. Thus, as a university of applied sciences, we want to continue to honor the solidarity efforts made by our members. In the upcoming spring semester, voluntary or obligatory service in the context of the Corona pandemic can be once again credited to the studies. Two solidarity modules of 2 ECTS each will again be offered in the Bachelor and consecutive Master programs. With these services, our students demonstrate their solidarity with society. Currently, some employees of our UAS Grisons are also working for the cantonal crisis team, where they are involved in the fight against the spread of the coronavirus. I am proud of this.

All information is constantly updated on our [Corona website](#). There you will find answers to possible questions about our current operations. We recommend to consult the website regularly.

Let's hang in there and hope for more relaxed times. We will emerge stronger as an agile university community from these challenging times.

Warmest regards and stay healthy

Yours, Jürg Kessler

Head of Crisis Management, President