

25 June 2021

Dear students, lecturers and colleagues

Shortly before the summer break, the situation surrounding the coronavirus continues to ease. On Wednesday, the Federal Council decided on further relaxations due to the declining number of cases and the progress in vaccinations. However, we are still in the stabilisation phase - including us at the university.

The university management is working hard to prepare for the return to face-to-face classes for 2021 autumn semester. However, some questions still need to be clarified at the federal and cantonal levels as well as at swissuniversities. For example, the overall ordinance on the latest measures of the Federal Council is not yet available, which regulates, for example, the handling of minimum distances in classrooms.

Until 11 July 2021, therefore, the basic decisions already communicated for teaching and continuing education will continue to apply at the UAS. We are currently in the middle of the final semester examinations. These also take place under the conditions already communicated and in compliance with the protection concept.

The obligation to wear a protective mask in the buildings of the UAS remains unchanged. This also applies to recovered, vaccinated and tested persons. These measures also apply to on-site written examinations. In order to ensure the greatest possible protection, the university management has decided to maintain the compulsory use of masks in the office premises until 11 July 2021, despite the relaxation by the federal government.

In order to continue to stand up to the pandemic, operational testing will be maintained until certainly the end of August. Those who are fully vaccinated do not necessarily have to take part in the repetitive testing. However, it is important that vaccinated persons continue to take an individual test in case of symptoms. This is because although the vaccination offers a high level of protection against severe and moderate courses of the disease, infections - especially those caused by worrying variants - cannot be ruled out.

So despite the relaxations, it is important to continue to be cautious and to observe the applicable hygiene and distance rules. In this way, we can contribute to supporting the positive development and pave the way back to face-to-face teaching. I would therefore also like to encourage all of you to participate in the vaccination offensive of the Confederation and the cantons. Anyone going on holiday soon will have to show a certificate in one place or another anyway.

As soon as the federal decree and the cantonal directive are available, we will inform you about the effects of the latest relaxation on university operations and give you an outlook on the autumn semester. This will include information on excursions, events or workshops.

The latest information is always available at fhgr.ch/coronavirus.

Thank you for your understanding and support over the past weeks and months.

For the coming period, I wish all students success in their exams and a relaxing summer for them and all of us. Stay healthy!

Yours, Jürg Kessler

Head of Crisis Management, President