

21 January 2022

Dear students

In a nutshell:

What changes:

- The validity period of certificates will automatically be reset from 365 to 270 days in our system due to the Federal Council decision.

What remains the same:

- 3G and mandatory masks, mandatory 2G and mandatory masks in continuing education.
- Written final module examinations will be conducted on site, oral examinations online.
- Start spring semester with face-to-face classes

Despite record high case numbers, the Federal Council is cautiously optimistic about the future. Switzerland could be on the verge of becoming endemic, it said on Wednesday, refraining from introducing stricter measures. Quarantine and home-office obligations will apply until the end of February, certificate rules until the end of March for the time being.

Spring semester starts with face-to-face classes

This development also allows us to plan ahead with optimism. Since the Federal Council has not banned face-to-face teaching at the tertiary level, we can start the spring semester with on-site teaching as already announced. We are convinced that high-quality teaching at the tertiary level is also dependent on face-to-face teaching. However, where it makes sense, all lectures will continue to be streamed. In the event that the situation deteriorates again, we must be prepared for a renewed switch to online teaching.

High personal responsibility during the exam weeks

Next up for you, however, are the important exam weeks. The final module examinations will continue to be conducted in writing on site and orally online. For the on-site examinations, as in class, the 3G rule applies and a protective mask is compulsory. In order not to jeopardise an improvement of the situation, especially in the current situation, we ask you to also wear the masks during the breaks and to keep to the distances. For details on how to proceed in the event of a possible illness, please refer to the communication of 14 January 2022. As always, further information can be found at fhgr.ch/en/coronavirus.

Certificate duration will be adjusted automatically

As of 31 January 2022, the validity period of certificates for vaccinated and recovered persons will be reduced from one year today to 270 days (9 months). The university management has therefore decided that the validity period of all certificates already entered in our system will be adjusted accordingly. You therefore do not need to take any action. Certificates that are not recorded until after 31 January 2022 should already have the new validity period recorded.

For the coming exam weeks, I wish you all much success, good luck and as smooth a process as possible. Stay healthy.

Yours, Jürg Kessler

Head of Crisis Management, President