

14.12.2020

## Information at the end of the year

Dear students

The first snowflakes have fallen and the Christmas lights in the streets have marked the festive season. It is a special advent this year and the anticipation of the holidays is somewhat clouded by the epidemiological situation. On Friday the Federal Council once again urged citizens to adhere to the measures, in order to bring the virus back under control. The President of the Confederation Simonetta Sommaruga spoke of an "extremely critical phase".

### Final module exams fall semester 2020

It is of great concern to us that you are able to successfully complete the fall semester even under these difficult circumstances. In the past weeks, we have continuously analysed the situation in consultation with the directors of studies and based on your feedback. Due to the current critical situation, the university management has decided that all final module examinations will be switched to remote examinations (online). This applies to both written and oral exams/speeches. We have already had positive experiences with this in the spring. If an on-site examination is absolutely necessary for didactic reasons, it will be carried out in compliance with our proven protection concept. The responsible lecturers or the respective directors of studies will inform you in good time about the details of how the examinations will be conducted.

The changeover is based on the [regulations for study and examination operations in special and extraordinary situations for the fall semester 2020](#).

### Expansion of solidarity modules

The Corona case numbers, which are still stagnating at a high level, are again a major concern for society. Willingness to help and solidarity are once again more in the spotlight. We would therefore like to support your commitment in this area even more. In addition to the obligatory and voluntary military and civil service missions to combat the pandemic, missions in contact tracing, in the cantonal command staff and comparable missions to combat the Corona pandemic can now also be credited.

The credit is given as an optional module (not relevant for doctoral studies, only as a statement in the certificate) for students who study according to the study and examination regulations for bachelor/consecutive master and as an elective module, for students who study according to the framework regulations. These solidarity modules can be credited/recorded over the entire course of study with a maximum of 4 ECTS and require approval by the Director of Studies.

### Study mode spring semester 2021

We have all become accustomed to distance learning; indeed we have been forced to come to terms with it. However, social interaction, exchange and spontaneity are often lacking in this new daily routine. Therefore, if the epidemiological situation and the national regulations

permit, we would like to start the spring semester in hybrid mode if possible. The final decision on this will be made by the university management on January 13, 2021 - taking into account the requirements of the federal government and in consultation with the other tertiary educational institutions in the canton.

The study and examination regulations in special/extraordinary situations for the spring semester have already been adapted and extended by the University Council.

### **We are digitally personal**

The services of the UAS Grisons will continue to be available to students, employees and also business partners. Only over the holidays there are restrictions. These can be seen on the Covid page ([fhgr.ch/coronavirus](https://fhgr.ch/coronavirus)) under "How do I reach the UAS Grisons?". As of Monday, January 4, 2021, services will be available again to the specified extent.

### **"Looking away is not an option"**

We are experiencing great solidarity during this special time and are mastering our challenges anew from day to day. Still, we may feel lonely or at a loss from time to time. Therefore, starting in January, the internal counselling center for students would like to give you the opportunity to meet again virtually to exchange ideas, learn from each other, and ask general questions about everyday life at university. The workshop series is planned for the entire spring semester. At the beginning of each workshop, there will be a short input on selected topics (including mental and physical health, time management, etc.). The first exchange will take place on January 14, 2021, from 5 to 6 p.m. and will take up the topic of "Stress in the Learning Phase." It will be organized and moderated by Maria Simmen, Head of the Internal Counselling Center for Students. The workshops will take place in German, however Maria Simmen offers individual coaching sessions on these topics in English. More information and the link to the meeting will follow at the beginning of January via Moodle.

Physical and also mental health are very important to us. On the Covid site ([fhgr.ch/coronavirus](https://fhgr.ch/coronavirus)) in the section "How do I stay healthy" you will find more input on this.

Let's take advantage of the coming holidays to also reflect on ourselves a little more. Leave the daily routine behind and regain your strength. Enjoy the time with your loved ones and recharge your batteries for a new challenging year.

I wish you a reflective Christmas season.

Best wishes and stay healthy!

Yours, Jürg Kessler

Head of Crisis Management, Rector