

2020, april 30

Information on credits and assistance for students in times of crisis

Dear students and colleagues,

Meanwhile we are already in the sixth week of the virtual UAS Grisons. We are now accustomed to distance learning, home office and interactive meetings or sessions. The teaching part of the spring semester in the Bachelor and consecutive Master programmes is coming to an end and we have prepared to complete it in distance learning mode.

Dealing with final module examinations (for Bachelor/consecutive Master)

As you are already aware, the UAS Grisons has set itself the goal of enabling students to complete the spring semester with as little delay as possible. For this reason, a large part of the final module examinations will be converted into online or alternative formats. The originally planned examination periods will be adhered to whenever possible. In order to comply with the requirements regarding social distancing and hygiene as well as examination modalities (e.g. longer examination duration for one class for oral examinations), the examination session may be extended by a maximum of three weeks, as also previously notified. The deadlines for submitting the Bachelor and Master thesis remain unchanged.

The regulations for study and examination sessions in extraordinary situations allow us to adjust proofs of performance and we have received permission from the Canton of Grisons to also conduct examinations on site. Our aim is to conduct at least half of all examinations in each study programme online. By determining the possible forms of examination as well as specifications to lecturers regarding these forms of examination, we want to ensure the regularity of all examinations. In addition, students will be asked to sign a declaration of autonomy – similar to the declarations signed in the theses of the UAS Grisons. In doing so, students confirm that they have completed the credits independently and exclusively with the permitted aids. Furthermore, we will obtain the written consent for recording oral examinations so that these recordings can be made available subsequently to an independent expert in the event of any appeals. These recordings will be deleted after the appeal period.

The following options regarding the conversion of credits in the final module examinations are available to lecturers:

- Continuation with on site written final module examinations during the examination weeks. The Canton of Grisons approved this option to the UAS Grisons in March upon application, subject to compliance with the requirements regarding social distancing and hygiene.
- Conversion of written (possibly oral) final module examinations into written or oral examinations suitable for distance learning during the examination weeks.
- Replacement of the proof of performance in the examination weeks by additional adequate proof of performance formats during the semester.

For written examinations on site, the UAS Grisons, in consultation with the regional institutions of tertiary education, will develop a protection concept in order to comply with the federal and cantonal requirements regarding social distancing and hygiene.

By the end of next week (8 May 2020) at the latest, the directors of studies will inform the students about the modalities in which the examinations will be conducted in. It is planned that the central examination schedule will be available one week later.

Student Services support in times of need

The internal advisory service for all concerns of student life or other personal topics is fully available to you in the virtual UAS Grisons. The team around Maria Simmen supports you by phone, e-mail or video calls. Take the first step and contact beratung@fhgr.ch. The counselling service is free of charge for all students of the Bachelor and consecutive Master programmes. The advisory services and workshops are also available on [Moodle](#).

In the coming weeks, Student Services will also offer the opportunity to meet virtually to exchange ideas, learn from each other and ask general questions about everyday student life. Until the end of May the exchange will take place every Wednesday from 12 to 13 o'clock via Webex and will be led by Maria Simmen. No registration is required.

Covid 19 Fund of EDUCA SWISS

For many students the Covid-19 pandemic also means financial concerns. Some of you have suffered severe financial losses and no longer know how to make ends meet. EDUCA SWISS has set up a fund for these cases, which enables those affected to obtain loans quickly and easily at non-profit rates. In concrete terms, students are supported quickly and simply with a loan of up to CHF 5,000 at 0% interest. Affected students must submit an application with the following documents: income situation, justification, budget plan including the required amount and details of education. Students who would like to benefit from this emergency aid can apply directly to EDUCA SWISS (mail@educaswiss.ch) with the keyword "Covid-19".

Exchange of experience on Distance Learning

The Blended Learning Center offers support and inspiration for distance learning to both lecturers and student supporters. In concrete terms, interested lecturers can, for example, participate in a moderated exchange webinar once a month. Lecturers from various subjects at the UAS Grisons present their courses and report on their experiences. The aim is to collect good practices and "lessons learned" and to show feasible methods in distance learning for the UAS Grisons. You can learn more about this in the Moodle course Virtual UAS Grisons.

Possibilities for library opening are being examined

Yesterday the Federal Council announced the further timetable on the way out of the lockdown. It is still planned that universities will be able to resume operations from 8 June 2020 onwards. The UAS Grisons will stand by its decisions previously taken and communicated. These are always available on our [website](#).

In accordance with the Federal Council's decision of 29 April 2020, libraries will be able to reopen their doors from 11 May 2020 with a concept of protection. The UAS Grisons is currently examining the possibilities of opening up its library. It is in contact with other libraries in Chur and within the Nebis network. Virtually, the services of the libraries will continue to be available to members of the university.

With this in mind, I wish everyone a continued successful time in distance learning, in the home office or in interactive meetings and conferences. And I especially wish our students good luck with their exams and hope for a successful conclusion of the spring semester.

With warm greetings and best wishes for your health
Jürg Kessler, Head of Crisis Management
Martin Studer, Prorector



**Wir sind digital
persönlich.**