

March 25, 2020

Effects of the corona crisis on students

Dear students

The situation regarding the coronavirus is currently changing constantly. We are receiving news from all over the world about increasing numbers of infected persons and about more stringent measures to slow down the spread of the virus.

In these troubled times, it is important to us to accompany you personally. We want to make sure that you can complete the spring semester despite the corona crisis and that there are no delays. The operation of the "virtual FH Graubünden" has now been running for over a week and we will continue to be there for you. "We are digitally personal" is therefore our new claim.

You as a student are also challenged during this time. You are having to adapt to new situations and adjust your daily routines. The virtual study environment opens up many questions. To help us support you as best we can, you will find important answers on our website: fhgr.ch/coronavirus. This website is updated continuously. You should therefore always get the latest information there first.

It is also important to us that you stay healthy in these challenging times. The virtual University of Applied Sciences and the prescribed work from home also have an influence on our well-being. Social isolation as well as lack of exercise and fresh air can become a burden. The Health Management Commission and the University Sports Department therefore provide members of the Grisons University of Applied Sciences with some [tips and online resources](#) to help them make the time meaningful.

Planning Distance Learning also in the longer term

We have now been running our studies virtually for one and a half weeks and I am pleased that everything is working so well. Even if there are still some teething problems, we are doing very well digitally. The positive feedback has given me assurance. As the situation currently stands, we are assuming that we will have to continue planning with distance learning beyond 30 April 2020 - the deadline communicated by the canton for the ban on face-to-face teaching.

It is also important to us that, despite these circumstances, we can support you on the road to exam success. The examinations as well as the bachelor and master's thesis should take place within the specified time frames. In order to comply with federal and cantonal regulations, the examination session may therefore be extended by up to three weeks.

Access to the buildings only in exceptional cases

In view of the latest measures taken by the Federal Council on 20 March 2020 to keep as much distance as possible and to ensure that the number of people in companies is limited, the UAS Grisons has also adapted its guidelines. Only members of the crisis management team are now allowed access to the buildings. Students will no longer have access to the premises until further notice. Individuals may be granted access by the responsible departmental management in exceptional cases. If several persons want to enter a building of the UAS Grisons, they must submit an application to the Head of the Crisis Management Department (notfall@fhgr.ch).

The university management is working flat out to find solutions for access to laboratories, workshops, technical loans and practical forms of teaching on site. The Cantonal Office for Higher Education has stated that such work is possible under certain conditions. A working group is currently planning the implementation of certain teaching units. You will be informed as soon as solutions are available.

Conscription to the army or civilian service

Special events require special effort. So in these extraordinary times you are always confronted with the need to help or support others. Various members of the University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons have already been called up for military or civil service, for example to help out in hospitals. Individual solutions for these people can be found when planning their studies. Affected students can contact their Study Directors for further information.

Students who want to spend the Autumn semester 2020 abroad at a university will have to be patient with the planning. The decision as to whether such semesters abroad are possible will be made on 8 April 2020.

If you have any questions regarding the crisis management of the UAS Grisons, or if you experience any symptoms, etc., you can still contact us around the clock by e-mail or telephone: notfall@fhgr.ch, +41 79 565 17 14. Updated information is also available on our website: fhgr.ch/coronavirus. Here you will also find an organization chart of the crisis management.

It is very important to me that you as students feel the support of your university of applied sciences. We are there for you, even now – digitally and personally.

I wish you and your relatives good health

Your Jürg Kessler
Head of Coronavirus Crisis Team