



Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

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To all students of Universität Hamburg

CC: All academic affairs staff at Universität Hamburg

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07.04.2020
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Summer Semester 2020

Dear Students,

In consultation with the other federal states of Germany, the Federal State of Hamburg decided yesterday that the lecture period for Summer Semester 2020 will begin on **Monday, April 20 2020**. It has not yet been decided when the lecture period will end, but a decision is anticipated soon. Due to the general decree currently in place, this means that teaching activities will take place in digital form only until further notice. You will be informed promptly if, when, and to what extent in-person classes may be resumed.

Universität Hamburg has set itself the goal of providing you, the students, with the broadest possible **digital curriculum** to allow you the opportunity to pursue your studies even under the current trying circumstances. To make this possible, our faculties and central institutions are working hard to digitalize our curriculum, particularly required courses. However, as not all teaching formats (such as practical exercises or excursions) can be transformed into a digital format, alternatives are still being sought. The faculties will inform you as soon as solutions can be found.

Digital orientation events for students beginning their first semester of studies in Summer Semester 2020 should take place in the week from 13–17 April 2020. Contact your academic office in your faculty for more information.

The **registration period for the first semester** to register for courses or classes in CampusNet (STiNE) is from 9 am, 14 April, until 1 pm, 16 April.

The **changes and corrections period** for all students this semester is from 9 am, 20 April, until 1 pm, 30 April.

As a rule, **no student should be at a disadvantage** as a result of the teaching formats resulting from the current circumstances. We are still exploring if and how the University can best support you. Students receiving BAFöG should note that participation in the online curriculum is obligatory under the BAFöG funding guidelines. Visit the Studierendenwerk Hamburg website for more information on BAFöG.

Many of you are familiar with the tools used in **digital teaching**, as they are already a well-established part of teaching practice at Universität Hamburg. Appropriate digital tools have been chosen based on subject-specific and teaching considerations, and their technical aspects. Of course, most teachers and students will prefer to use what are known as “synchronous” tools, such as live streaming. However, the extremely high levels of internet usage currently occurring in Germany and internationally must be kept in mind, and we have therefore asked teaching staff to consider primarily using “asynchronous” tools (e.g., videos and audio which can be downloaded, information exchange using forums, shared document editing, and providing feedback via a range of communication channels) to minimize potential disruptions.

Legal and technical clarification is still to be sought on the matter of **examinations** under digital conditions. While some examination formats, for example, term papers, do not raise any difficulties, written examinations and the like are more challenging, as it is not yet clear how these may be conducted in a manner that provides all participants the same conditions. Registration for examinations will be able to take place from 20 April 2020. Of course, this only applies to those exams which can actually be conducted under the current conditions. Dates have therefore yet to be set for make-up exams for Winter Semester 2019/20. Your faculty will inform you as soon as more concrete information is available.

The **State and University Library** is working intensively on measures to allow access to books and media materials despite the library being closed. State and University Library resources on offer can be viewed here: <https://www.sub.uni-hamburg.de/service/faq-covid-19.html>. You are already able to access digital journals using the University’s VPN service in the Universität Hamburg network. In addition, the library campus delivery service (a delivery service for digital articles) will also be available to students from 6 April 2020. An emergency lending service is currently being planned with the intention of expanding the provision of electronic textbooks.

You will find answers to the most important questions in our **Coronavirus FAQs** (<https://www.uni-hamburg.de/corona-faq>). Keep an eye on this page, at best on a daily basis, as information is regularly added and updated. You can also contact your faculty, departments, and teachers using the **study information network (STiNE)**. Please check your messages regularly in the STiNE portal, or make sure these are forwarded to your private email address.

As you will have seen in my system message in STiNE, all **counseling and support measures** offered by Universität Hamburg, Studierendenwerk, and other institutions are still available for you—albeit in a different form. For more information about emergency social situations, see the **Studierendenwerk website** at www.studierendenwerk-hamburg.de. Contact the Campus Center (<https://www.uni-hamburg.de/campuscenter/beratung>) with any basic questions

about your studies or if you need advice on personal matters. Contact your academic office (<https://www.uni-hamburg.de/campuscenter/beratung/weitere-beratungseinrichtungen/studienbueros.htm>) for any questions with regard to the organization of your studies.

The summer semester is now taking shape: we can make this a success if we see these challenges as an opportunity. In the past two weeks, I have seen and experienced how constructively my fellow colleagues have managed this situation, and how much commitment and creativity they bring to finding solutions to severe restrictions so we can provide that which brought us to this University, and that which binds us: the desire for academic community. So let us take this opportunity to get in touch and to stay in touch!

In this spirit of collaboration, I wish you a good start to Summer Semester 2020.



Prof. Dr. Susanne Rupp
Vice President for Studies and Teaching