



Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

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To all students and staff of Universität Hamburg

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## Teaching and Examinations in Summer Semester 2021

Dear Teaching Staff and Colleagues,

Unfortunately, four weeks before the summer semester begins, the pandemic remains as unpredictable as it did prior to the past two semesters. Nonetheless, it is still important to us to make you familiar with the Executive University Board's current plans, which are based on a step-by-step return to in-person classes. Compliance with all necessary hygiene, distancing, and protective measures is required for all steps.

### Step 1:

Conduct classes that focus on practical training or the learning of certain skills that cannot be conducted digitally. In addition to compliance with the abovementioned protective measures, the especially high technological safety standards and requirements (especially ventilation systems)—like those in laboratories in the Faculty of Mathematics, Informatics and Natural Sciences and at UKE—apply. Laboratory internships at the Faculty of Mathematics, Informatics and Natural Sciences and clinical training at UKE fulfill these conditions.

### Step 2:

Conduct classes with a high degree of practical work that must be completed in person but cannot avail themselves of protected spaces such as laboratories. This applies to field training and short field trips with limited ranges of movement (e.g., in the earth system sciences, biology, archeology, and art history), practical sports courses offered in human movement science, practical courses in educational science (theater and music education, selected courses in special needs education with practical components).

**Step 3:**

Conduct in-person classes in seminar rooms and lecture halls in accordance with subject priorities and plans in the faculties. Additionally, field training and field trips with a more extensive range of movement are permissible depending on political decisions.

Please understand that we cannot provide exact times for these steps at the moment. How we proceed essentially depends on the infection's development in the upcoming weeks and the measures set forth in the valid containment directives issued by the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.

The first step of opening is currently planned for the beginning of the semester after Easter. The Executive University Board will reach an agreement in mid-April with regard to facilitating the subsequent steps. The exact details of the opening will be agreed upon with the offices of the dean and set forth and publicized in the respective instructions via the offices of the deans and the academic offices.

We will continue to make health protection our top priority. At the same time, we aim to make practical training in many of our University's degree programs possible and, providing conditions allow, to reopen rooms for further classes and in-person academic exchange. Clearly, the goal should be to offer a digital alternative for every in-person format (with the exception of practical courses) so that students who do not wish to subject themselves to the continued risk of infection or who are not in Hamburg can continue with their studies.

Because we have received an increasing number of queries from students about holding exams at the end of the summer semester, we would like to inform you about our current considerations. The Executive University Board's view is that another change of plans just a few weeks before the beginning of the examination phase must be avoided at all costs. Students need to be able to plan at an early stage—that is, at the beginning of the semester—when it comes to examination times and types. For this reason, we need to plan based on the current rules on distancing, hygiene, and the maximum number of people per room. In turn, this means that we need to reckon with significantly limited space constraints and significant organizational challenges. For this reason, we expressly request that you take your summer semester examinations digitally and plan in-person examinations only for those examinations that must be taken under supervision due to the subject matter or examination regulations.

We sincerely hope that the balancing act between health protection and in-person teaching succeeds and that you understand that we must make all decisions about a gradual opening with caution and care.

Sincerely,



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