



**Universität Hamburg**

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

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To all students of Universität Hamburg

**Prof. Dr. Susanne Rupp**

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## Summer Semester 2021

Dear Students,

In a few days, we will begin the third semester in a row which we are required to conduct digitally as a result of the coronavirus. For some of you, this is your first semester at Universität Hamburg, for others it is already the second, or even the third, during which you are unable to be on campus as would usually be the case.

We, the Executive University Board of Universität Hamburg, sincerely regret that it is not possible to offer you the opportunities and lively atmosphere that usually characterize student life: learning together in classes, having chance meetings on campus, meeting people at parties, while playing sport, or in the University choir or orchestra, swapping ideas in the cafeterias, and diving into the special atmosphere of focused concentration in the libraries.

About a week before the Summer Semester 2021 is due to begin, we find ourselves in a critical phase of the pandemic. Despite this, we are working towards gradually opening highly practical courses that must be attended in-person. In the first stage, this includes lab internships. In the second stage, this includes practical courses that can be conducted outside of closed laboratories (for example, short field trips and small excursions with limited ranges of movement, practical sports courses offered in human movement science, and practical courses in theater and music studies as well as selected special needs education courses with practical components). As far as the ongoing pandemic allows, in a third stage, we will strive to make in-person attendance possible for selected interactive teaching formats like seminars, although only to a very limited extent, as room capacities continue to be significantly limited by physical distancing rules.

The Executive University Board has tasked Academic Affairs and administration staff with taking the required steps to allow these classes to take place as soon as the pandemic situation and health and safety requirements permit. Your academic office and your teachers will inform you of the details for your specific courses. If you have any other questions regarding your studies or teaching (organization of studies, examinations, advice) I refer you expressly to the FAQ (<https://www.uni-hamburg.de/corona-faq>) which are being constantly updated.

It is not our intent to make digital teaching at the current levels a “new normal.” We are doing all we feasibly and reasonably can to allow for direct contact and in-person exchange. However, we are of course also examining how we can use the positive aspects of digital teaching in our teaching in the future, and where it makes less sense. To this end, we carried out a university-wide survey on digital teaching in Winter Semester 2020/21 and many of you responded. Your responses to the survey are very important for the development of our teaching, and I would like to thank you most sincerely for your involvement. The results will be released as soon as they have been evaluated.

By continuing your studies from home and accepting the massive restrictions imposed on student life, you have made a significant contribution to the efforts of our society as a whole to keep the infection rates as low as possible and to protect the health, and lives, of others. The debt owed to you is sadly under-acknowledged in public debate. We sincerely hope this will be addressed in a speech from the president of the Federal Republic of Germany on 12 April 2021, directed at students in German universities (livestream 12 April 2021 from 11 am: [www.bundespraesident.de/sommersemester2021](http://www.bundespraesident.de/sommersemester2021)).

This situation asks much of you, and I hope that you manage to hold on to some hope that you will be enjoying student life in all its facets in the not-too-distant future.

Until then, I wish you a good start to Summer Semester 2021.

Sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Susanne Rupp

Vice President for Studies and Teaching