09 September 2021
Staff code: P

Subject: In-person teaching in the winter semester

Dear Colleagues,

At the end of June, we shared our planning parameters for the coming Winter Semester 2021/22. As part of that communication, we emphasized that in-person teaching on a larger scale would only be possible with a shift from the previous protective measures of distancing, hygiene rules, mask wearing, and ventilation (in German also known as AHA + L) to a vaccinated, recovered, or tested rule, known in Germany as the 3G rule.

Just a few weeks before the beginning of the semester, the Senate established the necessary framework for conducting in-person teaching at universities, allowing the requirement for distancing to be dropped where the 3G rule is observed. Teaching that was planned as in-person classes may therefore take place.

A university-wide solution to verifying a student’s 3G status is currently being developed for courses in the winter semester. The risk assessment requires teachers to take an antigen rapid test prior to in-person teaching. For teachers who have a vaccination or recovered status certificate are not required to take a test. More information will be available soon in the coronavirus FAQ (www.uni-hamburg.de/corona-faq).

The University’s protective measures also require that individuals wear a medical mask in all buildings and teaching rooms and observe general hygiene rules. All protective measures are listed in a specific risk assessment for in-person teaching, which will be available in the Staff Service Portal at the beginning of the semester.

The situation with the pandemic is still precarious, and we cannot rule out future restrictions during the lecture period. This is a good reason to continue with the digital format for events with many participants (particularly lectures) and to focus on providing in-person attendance for more interactive teaching formats such as seminars.
For many students, this transitionary semester will be particularly challenging in terms of integrating digital and in-person courses into their timetable. Some students will also face additional burdens imposed by health or family issues. We therefore ask you, where possible, to provide students who are unable to attend individual in-person classes or appointments with digital teaching materials for use outside of scheduled classes. This does not constitute an obligation to create or provide additional digital courses for students who are not in Hamburg.

Universität Hamburg sees itself as a university in which in-person teaching plays an important role. We are therefore delighted to be able to once again open our spaces to in-person academic exchange and social interaction. It is not going to be easy, but it is a step in the right direction.

Sincerely,

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Dieter Lenzen