



## Information

### on dealing with students who can prove they are (temporarily) unable to attend classes or take examinations in person in Winter Semester 2022/23

Last updated: 29 August 2022

In accordance with, inter alia, the recommendations made by the German Federal Government's panel of experts, Universität Hamburg has developed a [scenario-based plan \(PDF, accessible for disabled individuals\)](#) with 3 core scenarios (levels I, II, III) dependent upon the pandemic's development and state and federal statutes. The plan for level I applies until further notice: the majority of courses will be offered in person. A small number of students can choose not to attend in person, temporarily, or for the duration of the semester for various reasons.

The table on the page after next lists those students for whom taking part in in-person classes requiring attendance may not be possible. For these groups, there are tips on handling absences in in-person courses with attendance requirements, for withdrawing, or for designing in-person examinations.

Students with longer-term health problems can, if necessary, submit a request for compensation of disadvantages pursuant to Section 11 of the examination regulations to the examinations board, providing they need changes to examination conditions. Furthermore, the number of permissible absences from in-person classes with attendance requirements can, if necessary, be increased within the scope of compensation for disadvantages.

Students who cannot take part in examinations should deregister or, if this is no longer possible, withdraw from examinations. Contact your academic office for information about deregistration or withdrawal from examinations.

Pregnant and nursing students fall within the scope of the protection of mothers at work and during training or studies act (Gesetz zum Schutz von Müttern bei der Arbeit, in der Ausbildung und im Studium, MuSchG) as long as the University determines the place, time, and course of educational activities in person and makes them mandatory and/or requires an internship as part of university training. If students notify the academic offices and/or the Central Examination Office for Teacher Training (ZPLA) that they are pregnant or nursing, a **risk assessment** will be conducted to ascertain the risks posed by SARS-CoV-2. For this, it is important that the current version of the assessment be used.

Students who do not currently live in Hamburg or the greater Hamburg region are not entitled to University measures compensating for the situation. There are exceptions for students with disabilities who, despite proof of intensive efforts, cannot find housing in Hamburg that is accessible for disabled individuals.

University measures cannot compensate for risks posed by the commute to the University, especially the use of public transport, as these are general life risks. However, there are exceptions for pregnant and nursing students or students with disabilities if their disabilities severely restrict their mobility and there is an additional especially high risk, for example, if students need mobile breathing support systems or have cystic fibrosis.

[Information on COVID-19 risk assessments](#)

## **Whom can teachers and students contact if they have questions?**

This information is issued and regularly updated by the Family Office (Svenja Saure) and the student disability coordinators (Dr. Maïke Gattermann-Kasper, Prof. Dr. Sven Degenhardt).

Teachers and students can contact the Office for Students with Disabilities and Chronic Illnesses ([bee-intraechtigt-studieren@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:bee-intraechtigt-studieren@uni-hamburg.de)) and the Family Office ([familienbuero@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:familienbuero@uni-hamburg.de)) if they have any questions. Students should take advantage of telephone office hours. Feel free to send us any comments you may have about the information.

Students can contact the [Office for Students with Disabilities and Chronic Illnesses](#) for questions about studying with impairments or disabilities.

They can first contact their [academic office](#) and then the [Family Office](#) for questions about studying as a parent.

Case type	Comments	Procedure Courses	Procedure Examinations
Pregnant and nursing students	<p>If students notify the academic offices and/or the Central Examination Office for Teacher Training (ZPLA) that they are pregnant or nursing, a <b>risk assessment</b> will be conducted in which the risks posed by COVID-19 will be designated.</p> <p>These students may be unable to attend classes in person.</p>	<p>Pregnant and nursing students for whom the risk assessment deems there is a risk should enjoy preference for digital classes requiring attendance.</p> <p>If pregnant and nursing students miss in-person classes with attendance requirements due to risk, they must provide proof of risk to excuse their absence. <b>Recommendation:</b> Pregnant and nursing students should be offered the possibility to make up missed sessions (digital or analog) so that they can achieve the module objectives.</p>	<p>As a rule, in-person examinations should be taken as expected; if necessary, “low-risk” or, in special cases, individual examination rooms at the University should be provided.</p> <p>An examination room can be deemed low-risk if it is easy to ventilate and occupied by only a few people allowing for significant distance between them.</p> <p>If necessary, deregister after the deregistration deadline and/or withdraw from examinations, depending on the individual situation.</p>
Students with children or relatives requiring care	<p>As a rule, childcare facilities, schools, and nursing care facilities are available.</p> <p>However, many children and/or relatives requiring care often need to be cared for at home, especially due to unexplained cold symptoms, a proven COVID-19 infection, or other isolation requirements.</p> <p>These students may be unable to attend classes in person.</p>	<p>Students with children and/or relatives requiring nursing care should be permitted to and/or given preference for digital classes with required attendance upon case review.</p> <p>Periods of illness and/or isolation requirements for a child or relative requiring care must be recognized in the case of absences in in-person courses or delays when completing coursework and/or examinations. The unavoidable loss of childcare or nursing care must also be recognized as a reason for absence or delays where proof is provided (e.g., a doctor’s note or note from the care facility or carer).</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> Students with family obligations should be offered compensation opportunities (digital or analog) for missed sessions so that they can achieve the module objectives.</p>	<p>As a rule, in-person examinations should be taken as expected; if necessary, an examination room at the University should be provided.</p> <p>If necessary, deregister after the deregistration deadline and/or withdraw from examinations, depending on the individual situation.</p> <p>A child’s sick days must be treated like a student’s own illness—that is, as a justifiable reason for missing or withdrawing from an examination. The unavoidable loss of childcare or nursing care must also be recognized as a justifiable reason for absence or withdrawal where proof is provided (e.g., a doctor’s note or note from the care facility or carer).</p>

Case type	Comments	Procedure Courses	Procedure Examinations
Students who can prove they have COVID-19 or isolation requirements	These students cannot and should not attend classes in person.	If an acute COVID-19 infection requires isolation, leading to absences in in-person courses with attendance requirements, these absences must be recognized upon proof <sup>1</sup> . <b>Recommendation:</b> Affected students should be offered compensation opportunities (digital or analog) for missed sessions so that they can achieve the module objectives.	If necessary, deregister after the deregistration deadline and/or withdraw from examinations, depending on the individual situation.
Students who can prove they are at high risk for a serious COVID-19 infection (e.g., people with compromised immune systems)	These students may be unable to meet in-person attendance requirements.	This group of students should be given priority to digital classes with attendance requirements. For in-person courses with attendance requirements, if there are absences exceeding (if applicable) the number of individually permissible absences set forth in the compensation for disadvantages pursuant to Section 11 of the examination regulations, the absences must be recognized upon proof <sup>2</sup> and/or within the scope of a valid recommendation for compensation for disadvantages. <b>Recommendation:</b> Affected students should be offered compensation opportunities (digital or analog) for missed sessions so that they can achieve the module objectives.	In-person examinations should be taken as expected; if necessary, with compensation measures pursuant to Section 11 of the examination regulations. If an individual examination room has not already been recommended within the scope of compensation for disadvantages, it should be provided at the University. If necessary, this room can be used by a few more examinees.
Students who can prove they require assistance or interpreters <sup>3</sup>	If specific difficulties arise in connection with the use of an assistant or interpreter (e.g., the assistant or interpreter gets COVID-19, and thus	As before, preference should be given to these students for all courses with participation restrictions.	In-person examinations should be taken as expected; if necessary, with compensation measures pursuant to Section 11 of the examination regulations.

<sup>1</sup> Acceptable proof is, for example, a doctor's note or confirmation from a COVID-19 testing center.

<sup>2</sup> Proof is a doctor's note or note from a clinic that, with reference to current recommendations by the Robert Koch Institute or STIKO, attests to a student's inability to be vaccinated for medical reasons or to the fact that the student, despite being fully vaccinated, no longer enjoys sufficient protection and for whom the STIKO would recommend a booster shot.

<sup>3</sup> Students can prove need by submitting, for example, a note from the aid provider for people with disabilities who attend a university.

Case type	Comments	Procedure Courses	Procedure Examinations
	<p>the student cannot or cannot fruitfully attend classes), then these students may be unable to meet in-person attendance requirements.</p>	<p>Assistants and interpreters must be allowed to attend in-person classes.</p> <p>For in-person courses with attendance requirements, if there are absences exceeding (if applicable) the number of individually permissible absences set forth in the compensation for disadvantages pursuant to Section 11 of the examination regulations, the absences must be recognized upon proof and/or within the scope of a valid recommendation for compensation for disadvantages. <b>Recommendation:</b> Affected students should be offered compensation opportunities (digital or analog) for missed sessions so that they can achieve the module objectives.</p>	<p>If an individual examination room has not already been recommended within the scope of compensation for disadvantages, it should be provided at the University. If necessary, this room can be used by a few more examinees.</p> <p>An assistant's or interpreter's sick days must be treated like a student's own illness—that is, as a justifiable reason for missing or withdrawing from an examination.</p>
<p>Students who can generally attend classes in person but for whom accessibility cannot be ensured (e.g., infection protection measures)</p>	<p>These students may be unable to meet in-person attendance requirements.</p>	<p>As before and upon review, preference should be given to these students for all courses with participation restrictions.</p> <p>For in-person courses with attendance requirements, if there are absences exceeding (if applicable) the number of individually permissible absences set forth in the compensation for disadvantages pursuant to Section 11 of the examination regulations, the absences must be recognized upon proof<sup>4</sup> and/or within the scope of a valid recommendation for compensation for disadvantages. <b>Recommendation:</b> Affected students should be offered compensation opportunities (digital or analog) for missed sessions so that they can achieve the module objectives.</p>	<p>In-person examinations should be taken as expected; if necessary, with compensation measures pursuant to Section 11 of the examination regulations.</p> <p>If an individual examination room has not already been recommended within the scope of compensation for disadvantages, it should be provided at the University. If necessary, this room can be used by a few more examinees.</p>

<sup>4</sup> If the problems are not immediately visible, proof can be submitted in the form of, for example, an ID attesting to disability (marked "BI" or "AG," "B," "G," and "H").