Suspension of academic activities with Russian institutions

Dear Colleagues,

Russia’s attack on Ukraine and against the peaceful international order, as well as the breach of international law that it represents, has left us profoundly shaken. We are deeply concerned for the safety of everyone in the affected regions and stand in solidarity alongside the people of Ukraine. We support all measures aimed at reducing the suffering of those in need and stopping the war. In particular, we extend our thoughts to those who are currently in Ukraine, who have friends and family there, or who are otherwise directly affected.

We support the recommendations of the German government and the Alliance of Science Organizations in Germany: as an initial measure, we are temporarily suspending all cooperation activities with Russian universities and research institutions in Russia and the associated monetary flows. This will come into effect immediately for a period of four weeks until 31 March 2022, provided that conditions remain unchanged.

The measure includes the suspension of:

- student exchanges and excursions (both outgoing and incoming)
- partnership activities and events (both in-person and digital formats) including visits from guests from partner institutions in Russia
- degree programs with Russian partners including digital courses for locations in Russia
- research projects with Russian partner institutions in compliance with the regulatory framework of the funding bodies.

To the professorial staff and employees of Universität Hamburg
The temporary suspension of all cooperation projects and activities with Russian institutions is intended to isolate the Russian state politically and economically and to prevent project activities and results from being misused by the Russian state for propaganda. In this context, we advise you to exercise special caution when sharing information and research data with Russian partners on a personal level, also to avoid unintentionally violating EU sanctions against Russia.

As a university, we stand explicitly against Vladimir Putin’s regime and against any advocates of the war of aggression in Ukraine. We do not stand against colleagues or students at Russian universities and research institutions who are just as shocked by the current developments as we are. The measures we have adopted reflect our clear commitment to international law and are visible proof of our efforts to defend core values like freedom and self-determination, which are the foundation of academic freedom and academic cooperation opportunities.

In order to prevent misunderstandings, we would like to point out the following:

- Russian students and exchange students who are currently spending a semester at Universität Hamburg in the context of cooperation are still permitted to participate in teaching and examinations; they must not be discriminated against.
- Russian prospective students are still able to apply for university places.

We are currently compiling a list of counseling and support services for affected Ukrainian and Russian students and researchers. An overview is available at [www.uni-hamburg.de/uhhhilft-ukraine](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/uhhhilft-ukraine). This information is updated continually.

We will inform you in due course about how we intend to handle our cooperation projects and activities with Russian institutions in the medium term and long term.

If you have any questions, contact the people listed below.

Yours faithfully,

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