Secure conditions for return to face-to-face teaching with restrictions

Ladies and gentlemen, dear students, dear employees,

In October, we start yet another semester that coincides with a new wave of the pandemic. But the forecasts are more favorable, not least because of the vaccination campaign. We now plan to use the teaching rooms at 50% occupancy and expect that this will allow us to offer face-to-face teaching to all students this winter semester. However, the 50% occupancy and thus a return to more face-to-face teaching is only possible through the introduction of 3G. In the opinion of the university management, the opportunity to be able to open up the university to face-to-face teaching again and thus to move a little closer to the normal everyday study routine clearly outweighs the expenses, the need for regulation and the compromises that 3G entails. Contact tracing will be discontinued for the time being in accordance with the regulation situation.

In this mail I want to give you an overview and remind you again of important key points of our concept for the coming semester. In addition to the many individual regulations that will now follow and which I urge you to read carefully - despite understandable Corona fatigue - I would also like to express our joy on behalf of the university management that the University of Kassel will once again become a lively place to study during the planned 'semester of attendance with restrictions'!

The following applies at the University of Kassel as of now.

Regulations for students and teachers

- With the start of the winter semester, significantly more courses can take place in presence, prior approval is no longer required. The spacing and hygiene rules must be observed (All measures can also be found in the supplement to the house rules for protection against Covid 19: [https://www.uni-kassel.de/uni/corona/umgang-mit-dem-corona-virus#c61483](https://www.uni-kassel.de/uni/corona/umgang-mit-dem-corona-virus#c61483)).

- In lecture halls and seminar rooms, up to a maximum of 50% of the available seats can be occupied. Contact information is no longer collected. The 50% occupation of lecture halls is done in the so-called checkerboard pattern, where every second seat of a row is occupied and the rows in front or behind are each occupied in a staggered manner. The number of available seats is marked on the lecture rooms as well as in the room booking system HIS LSF. In large lecture halls the seats are marked, in the other rooms the participants organize themselves independently.

- Lecturers should - as already planned in many cases - offer their courses in presence within the framework of the available room capacity. Some of the courses can also be held in a purely digital format in order to make more space available for other courses. The decision in favor of presence should be based on the extent to which the course is geared toward interactive participation by the students. Also, students who have already experienced their studies under corona conditions since the beginning should be offered more face-to-face teaching. Lectures with a lecture character are most suitable for a purely digital offering and can preferably be made available as recordings so that students can plan flexibly. Internships and similar events, which have also taken place in presence so far, will continue to take place in this way.

- In the departments, planning is underway to offer digitally usable alternatives to the face-to-face courses. This should be done to the extent that the study program can be continued successfully and, if possible, without loss of time, even by those students who are unable to attend in person. Digital alternative offerings will possibly differ somewhat and entail restrictions. In the elective area, it is sufficient if certain elective modules / courses can be used digitally. It is also acceptable if there is less interactive participation etc. in digital alternatives.
• The lecturers inform the students of their own courses in a suitable manner as early as possible by e-mail, on the usual websites or in Moodle, in which form they will conduct the courses.

• The lecturers are aware that students have to plan travel times from campus to home and vice versa when designing their timetable and selecting courses for the change between digital participation and attendance. For organizational reasons alone, quite a few students will therefore not be able to attend all face-to-face events in person - the instructors should respond to this with consideration. However, due to the strong interconnectedness of many degree programs via polyvalent courses, there is no possibility to disentangle the schedules of all degree programs with transitional periods.

• Other events that are not part of the teaching schedule, such as conferences, lecture events, and educational offerings can also be held again. In this case, the permissible number of participants must be observed and event-specific spacing and hygiene concepts must be drawn up. Due to the limited room capacities of a maximum of 50%, it may not always be possible to hold the event at the university. Written examinations and curricular face-to-face courses have priority in the use of space.

Introduction 3G regulation

• In order to ensure protection against infection, a Corona virus negative certificate according to the 3G rule is required for participation in all courses as well as other events (e.g. sports, music events, excursions, conferences, etc.): Vaccinated, Recovered, Tested.

• The 3G rule also applies to areas and rooms used by students outside of classes for study purposes (i.e., the LEO and UB) as well as food and supply facilities (e.g., dining hall). This is because: only the application of the 3G rule makes it possible to make a 50 percent space offer.

• The 3G rule, on the other hand, does not apply to written and oral examinations. Here, care must be taken to ensure sufficient distance, medical masks and regular ventilation.

• Adherence to the 3G rule is randomly checked by security guards at the entrances to lecture halls and large seminar rooms. During internships, seminar events, music, sports events as well as excursions, the lecturers check. We will shortly be providing the lecturers with further information on this.

• The test proof can be provided by a PCR that has been performed a maximum of 48 hours ago or by a rapid antigen test that has been performed a maximum of 24 hours ago by a service provider in a public testing center.

• For verification purposes, the negative proof must be carried along with an original student ID (CampusCard) or official identification document.

Distance and hygiene rules, obligation to wear masks

• The wearing of medical masks (OP mask, FFP2 or comparable) remains mandatory on all circulation areas in the buildings, in all rooms with public traffic and at all public events.

• During teaching events (lectures, seminars, practicals, etc.) as well as oral and written examinations in presence, medical masks continue to be mandatory on a permanent basis - i.e. at the seat, on the traffic routes, when entering and leaving the classroom and when moving between seats.

• If a distance of 1.5 meters from other persons can be safely maintained (e.g., if the room occupancy is less than 20%) and technical ventilation is available or sufficient manual ventilation can be ensured, it is at the discretion of the instructor whether the wearing of
medical masks can be dispensed with. This should only be done in agreement with the participating students.

- Lecturers in courses and those taking part in examinations may refrain from wearing medical masks, provided that a distance of 1.5 meters from other persons can be safely maintained and technical ventilation is available or sufficient manual ventilation can be ensured.

**Corona vaccination offer**

- In addition to the general vaccination opportunities, the University is offering additional vaccination opportunities at the start of the lecture season for students and employees who have not previously had the opportunity to be vaccinated. Vaccination dates will be held at Dutch Place:
  - Friday 01/10/21, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Campus Center.
  - Friday 10/15-21, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Campus Center
  - Friday 10/29/21, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Moritz Restaurant (across from Campus Center)
  - Friday 12/11/21, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Campus Center
- All employees and students have already received an email this week with information about the immunization schedule and how to book an appointment. If you have any questions, please contact corona-impfung@uni-kassel.de
- The current fourth wave is largely a pandemic of the unvaccinated. The university administration therefore appeals to you, dear students, and likewise to all employees of our university: get vaccinated now!

**Opening hours and learning spaces**

- With few exceptions, University buildings will be open for general admission daily Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm.
- All University Library locations are open:
  - Campus Library at Dutch Square Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Service Desk Monday through Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- For the opening hours of the other library locations, please see the website: https://www.uni-kassel.de/ub/ueber-uns/kontakt
  - The LEO Learning Center is open daily Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
  - The former Bistro K10 is open daily Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.

**The Studierendenwerk Kassel with opening hours of the refectories and bistros as well as study areas from 11.10.2021:**

- Central dining hall Mon - Fri. 11:30 -14:30 and Sat 9:00-15:00hrs.
- Learning space: Mon - Fri. 15:00 20:00 and Sat 9:00-15:00
- TorCafé: Mon - Fri 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Learning space: Mon - Fri 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Pavillion Mon - Fri 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Learning area: none
- Heinrich-Plett-Str. cafeteria Mon - Fri: 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
- Learning area: Mon - Fri 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Mensa/Cafeteria Kunsthochschule Mo -Fr 9:00-15:00 hrs
Learning area Mo - Fr 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Cafeteria Witzenhausen Mon - Fri 8:00-14:00 hrs
Learning area: Mon - Fri 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Café 71, Wilhelmshöher Allee Mon - Fri 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Learning area in the foyer Mon - Fri 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Regulations for employees**

- The current "mobile work" regulation agreement continues to apply, initially until June 30, 2022. For more details, please visit [www.uni-kassel.de/go/mobile-arbeit](http://www.uni-kassel.de/go/mobile-arbeit).

- The previously practiced regulation for scientific employees continues to apply unchanged.

- The antigen self-tests will continue to be provided. We urge faculty in particular to test themselves regularly prior to classes.

- As a matter of principle, the regulation situation does not provide for the 3G regulation to be applied to university employees. Nevertheless, we welcome employees to voluntarily comply with 3G regulations, as 3G provides a higher level of security for all of us.

- For in-house continuing education and events that are not part of core operations, and where clearance and hygiene rules cannot be safely followed, according to the University of Kassel’s Covid 19 protection service directive, Corona virus negative proof according to the 3G rule is required for participation: Vaccinated, Recovered, Tested. These events will be marked accordingly in the continuing education or event schedule.

Also in this newsletter, I would like to ask you to regularly check for applicable regulations at [www.uni-kassel.de/go/gesundheitsschutz](http://www.uni-kassel.de/go/gesundheitsschutz).

This winter semester, we will conduct as much face-to-face teaching as possible while at the same time providing students and all employees with a high level of infection control. We are confident that this approach will allow us to do both. Please be considerate of each other, especially during the first few weeks of the semester, even though everything may not yet be running perfectly and smoothly. This time in particular will be a challenge for all of us, when the new and, unfortunately, sometimes costly routines have not yet been practiced and many people have to find their way around the campus of a large university again or for the first time. Please make the start of the new academic year easier for yourselves and for all of us by showing the consideration that has enabled us to get through the pandemic well so far, but also by showing mutual understanding and patience in a situation that has changed once again.

Best regards
Oliver Fromm

Chancellor of the University of Kassel