



Important information on the current winter semester and the upcoming summer semester

Dear students,

At the beginning of the year, I would like to address you with a detailed email containing information on the current semester, the upcoming examination period as well as the summer semester 2022. In addition to the notes listed below, I kindly ask you to regularly read the FAQs for students to keep track of all the detailed information.

Pandemic information for the current semester

The legal regulations for universities, which we communicated to you on 29 November 2021, remain unchanged. According to current statements by the senate administration responsible for higher education, no changes are planned for the coming weeks. The only exception affects the regulation signed last week by the said administration to extend the standard individual period of study. This means that this se-

mester, too, an individual standard period of study that deviates from the standard period of study (“Regelstudienzeit”) and is extended by one semester will apply to persons who were enrolled in the winter semester 2021/22 and were not on leave of absence. The certificate for the winter semester 2021/22 is available after registration in the AGNES portal under the menu item "Certificates".

The 3G regulation and the FFP2 mask obligation (even if a distance of 1.5 m is observed) continue to apply for in-person teaching. For participation in university sports, ensemble music and student initiatives, the 2G plus principle applies (vaccinated or convalescent status, supplemented by a negative test certificate that must not be older than 24 hours).

In view of the increasing number of cases, at the end of last year many lecturers already switched their courses to digital mode. At the same time, it is still possible to offer face-to-face teaching. Viewed across the entire university, the proportion of face-to-face teaching is currently still around 20%, although the distribution varies greatly across the courses of studies. In order to enable as many students as possible to continue attending courses, many lecturers have also created additional digital formats. At the beginning of this year, I would also like to express my gratitude for this extraordinary commitment on the part of the lecturers and at the same time make it clear that this is not an obligation. A comprehensive double offer of face-to-face and digital teaching is not feasible in terms of technology and staff.

Examinations in the winter semester 2021/2022

In accordance with § 96d ZSP-HU, the Presidential Board of Humboldt-Universität has determined the existence of exceptional circumstances with regard to the pandemic for both examination periods in the winter semester 2021/2022. The faculties responsible for organising and conducting teaching and examinations thus have the opportunity to create alternative forms of examination in addition to those provided for in the study and examination regulations. These can be, for example, take-home examinations, open book examinations, written assignments or written and oral digital distance examinations. The lecturers will inform you immediately about the respective form of examination. This does not entitle students to a digital examination or alternative formats. However, students can apply for a Compensation for Disadvantage (Nachteilsausgleich) if they cannot sit in an examination in person for justified reasons (e.g. due to care obligations).

For face-to-face examinations, the 3G regulation and FFP2 mask obligation apply until further notice. Should you receive a positive test result before the examination, please place yourself in self-isolation - unless you have already received an official quarantine order from the responsible health authority. In these cases, you can of

course withdraw from the test for health reasons. However, please remember to declare your withdrawal from your examination registration in any case.

If you receive a positive test result before a digital examination that you would have taken at home anyway, it is your decision whether to take it, depending on your state of health. If you are unable to take the digital exam, please remember to withdraw from the exam registration in this case as well.

Student Services

Sickness and quarantine periods are also increasing among our staff. So far, we have not been forced to make any major service cuts, as many services can also be offered from home. Nevertheless, as a precautionary measure, I would like to ask for your understanding that delays may occur in the coming weeks in some areas (such as the examination offices). We are constantly monitoring developments and will inform you as soon as extensive restrictions become necessary.

Plans for the summer semester 2022

While the winter semester is still in full swing, preparations for the summer semester 2022 have already begun. In addition to the normal preparatory processes, we are addressing those aspects that we would like to improve next semester. These include the expansion of work spaces for students as well as the comprehensive control of vaccination und test status proofs. We will communicate detailed information on the results achieved in good time before the start of the summer semester.

In consultation with the faculties, a declaration of intent for the summer semester was also drawn up, which was approved by the Presidium yesterday and which I would like to share with you. It reads:

"In the spirit of collective exchange, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin is striving for a summer semester in 2022 with face-to-face teaching and is currently making the appropriate preparations for this. At the same time, the Presidential Board and the faculties are aware that the pandemic development is dynamic and cannot be predicted with any accuracy in the medium term. In particular, the legal framework for classroom teaching can change at short notice. For these reasons, a possible digital semester start phase is anticipated in the course planning, as is an unlikely but not impossible switch to digital formats during the semester. Irrespective of these pandemic-related considerations, it is the declared aim of Humboldt-Universität to continue to incorporate those experiences with digital and hybrid teaching formats that have proven to be profitable into teaching in the future. Therefore, didactically mea-

ningful digital or hybrid teaching formats as a supplement to face-to-face teaching remain possible and are expressly desired. Exemplary formats and conditions for success for this will be increasingly anchored within and further developed by the university.”

Survey by the University Health Management (HGM)

Furthermore, I would like to motivate you to participate in the current student survey "Geht's Dir gut an der HU?" by the HGM. The aim is to design a health-promoting offer based on the survey results, which is oriented towards the needs of the students of Humboldt-Universität. Click on the following link to go directly to the anonymous survey, which will be online until 13 February 2022:

[Take part in the survey](#)

Parallel to the survey, various health events are offered that have been developed to support you in view of the upcoming exam period (e.g. "Exam anxiety - What to do?"). The next block of events will take place from 24 January 2022. Information on this can be found [on their website](#).

With kind regards

Prof. Dr. Niels Pinkwart
Vice President for Academic Affairs

At short notice: Application for the Deutschlandstipendium

Students can apply for German fellowships in the Humboldt themed classes "Sustainability & Global Justice" and "Cannabis Research Class" until 23 January 2022 at 11.59 pm. Here, the fellows learn how to work scientifically and conduct independent research by being involved in research projects. They exchange ideas with researchers, learn from them and gain insights into the world of science and access to top-class events at an early stage of their studies. The scholarship is also funded with 300 euros/month and runs for an initial period of one year with the option of extension.

[Apply now for the Deutschlandstipendium](#)

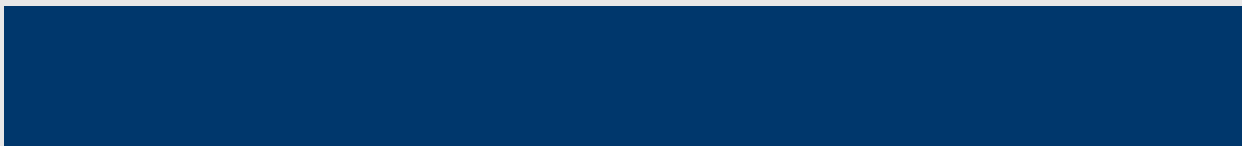




Photo: Matthias Heyde

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