

Dear Students,

The digital summer semester 2020 has demanded a lot from us, and we are thankful for the broad support that everyone has shown in response to this challenge. We are now heading into the examination phase, followed by several weeks of semester break.

We are writing today to inform you about our plans for the coming months in view of the constantly changing circumstances and unexpected developments. The information provided below in part refers to plans in the somewhat distant future and therefore is not entirely specified. Our purpose is simply to make your own planning easier.

Summer semester 2020

Phase 2 (2 June – 17 July 2020)

Until 17 July 2020, i.e. the end of the lecture period of the summer semester (Phase 2), we do not intend to make any further changes to the current rules and guidelines for holding courses. The digital courses you are currently taking will conclude as digital courses.

To make it easier to prepare for your examinations, the University Library (ULB) will reopen its reading rooms at Krummer Timpen on 29 June 2020. The ULB has developed a system to enable students to reserve a study space in advance. You will find more information shortly on the ULB website.

Please consult the websites of your respective departments or Examination Offices for all relevant information pertaining to your examinations.

Phase 3 (18 July – 30 September 2020) = lecture-free period

Most University buildings will reopen at the beginning of the lecture-free period. For purposes of contact tracing, you may be asked to provide your contact data before being allowed to enter certain buildings or rooms.

Users of all WWU buildings are still obliged to wear mouth-nose coverings for the sake of protecting themselves and everyone inside. Mouth-nose coverings need not be worn if persons can maintain a distance of at least 1.5 metres from one another.

We remain committed to concluding the summer semester 2020 as a “digital” semester. During the lecture-free period, however, some courses may be conducted in person (e.g. compact courses) as long as the legal regulations are observed. The Dean’s Offices are responsible for deciding on exceptions and will announce their decisions in due form. Please visit your respective departmental websites for more details.

Excursions may take place again irrespective of duration or distance, but travel warnings and hygiene rules must be taken into consideration.

Starting 18 July 2020, a number of our student service and advice offices will gradually reopen for in-person consultations again. For more information on opening hours and visiting conditions, please contact the service offices directly.

Also as of 18 July, fairs, congresses, exhibitions, public presentations, concerts, performances etc. will be allowed to take place again. The respective event organiser is responsible for complying with the latest version of the Coronavirus Protection Regulations.

Winter semester 2020/21

Our goal for the winter semester 2020/21 is to enable students to interact in person with one another and their instructors, together with everyone who participates in university life, to the furthest extent that external circumstances allow.

The winter semester begins on 1 October 2020. Prior to the beginning of the lecture period on 2 November 2020, the University will hold an orientation week for the first-semester students. Some faculties are planning to organise programmes earlier – especially for higher-semester students. The programmes will be announced in advance by the faculties.

The WWU plans to offer the winter semester in “full operation with possible restrictions”. This means that in-person classroom instruction would resume. Depending on the terms of the distancing rules, the faculties may have to institute a combination of digital teaching methods and in-person instruction. The faculties will be reviewing their policies on the basis of these framework conditions in the coming weeks.

In case infections spike again, requiring the University to quickly scale back operations and shutter facilities, the WWU has proposed three stages for planning the upcoming winter semester:

Stage 1: full operation with possible restrictions

Stage 2: restricted operations due to an increase of coronavirus infections in Münster/at the WWU

Stage 3: minimal operations due to a general lockdown

If the rate of infection in Münster increases to such an extent that the WWU must restrict operations and enter “Stage 2”, courses will return to digital formats as much as possible – similar to how we are operating at present. More extensive restrictions may be necessary in the case of a general lockdown.

At present, we plan to hold the winter semester under normal conditions, i.e. at Stage 1, while observing hygiene rules and distancing restrictions.

You probably have further questions, especially if you belong to a high-risk group or have familial responsibilities. We are aware that these aspects still require clarification – and we will work hard in the coming weeks to provide you with answers. For up-to-date information, please regularly check the central website of the University of Münster and the faculty homepages.

We hope that the information we have provided will help you in the coming weeks and make it easier to plan for the winter semester.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Dr. Johannes Wessels
Rector

Matthias Schwarte
Head of Administration