

Framework for Studies and Teaching Spring Term 2022

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1. Preamble

The past weeks have shown that the Corona pandemic will continue to be part of the spring term 2022. Our goal is to give students and teachers - as far as possible - planning security for the current semester. Our answers are closely linked to our self-image as a university: The University of Applied Sciences Emden/Leer is and will remain a campus university. The value of personal encounters and personal exchange is essential for the university as a whole, for studies, for research and for the cooperation between students, teachers and employees.

On the other hand, we have gained valuable experience with digital teaching and learning formats and with the possibilities of digital dialogue or mobile working in the last few semesters. We got to know and tried out numerous new tools, formats and concepts that have fundamentally modernized teaching at our university in many areas. **The aim must be to find a common way in the upcoming semesters so that all these experiences can be meaningfully integrated into the semester planning.** However, we will only succeed in doing this when we can finally leave the "crisis mode" so that we can then invest our strength and resources in orderly planning of lectures and answering many open questions about teaching after Corona.

2. Relevant Regulation

The “Lower Saxony Ordinance on Infection Preventive Protective Measures against the Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 and its variants” is decisive for the actions of the university management. All protective measures, hygiene concepts as well as control and follow-up regulations of our university are based on these legal framework conditions.

Further ordinances, a new version of the applicable regulations, questions about the interpretation of existing regulations or necessary coordination processes between the universities in Lower Saxony may make it necessary to revise the framework conditions for studying and teaching in the spring term 2022 at short notice. Please inform yourself about the status on our homepage at <https://www.hs-emden-leer.de/hochschule/hochschule/ueber-die-hochschule/infos-zum-corona-virus/informationen-fuer-studierende>.

3. Objectives of the Event Planning

When planning events in the spring term 2022, the following (partly competing) objectives should be achieved against the background of the current and expected pandemic situation:

- Reduce the infection rate in the region and beyond and ensure the protection of all members of the Emden / Leer University of Applied Sciences.
- Make the qualification and learning goals of the students accessible and ensure the quality of teaching.
- Enable the students to settle in the university and keep them at the university.
- Continue to profile the University of Emden / Leer as a campus university and as a regional university
- Obtain a high degree of flexibility in order to enable a possible adjustment of the event planning in the event of changes in the pandemic situation.

4. Framework for Face – to – Face Events

The spring term 2022 will still be a corona semester. In this respect, the university asks all parties involved to communicate and discuss problems directly and openly with one another in the event of problems. Lecturers should offer fixed office hours for this purpose. These can be made easier by using video conference systems.

Irrespective of this, many of those involved want to get back into classroom teaching. A query to the departments resulted in a clear vote: The departments would like to start on March 1st, 2022 in a face-to-face format. In its meeting on January 19, 2022, the university management decided to follow this unanimous wish. This corresponds to the current trend in the university landscape and is another building block on the way to normality.

The decision of the Prime Ministers' Conference (MPK) of February 16, 2022 provides for the restrictions on social, cultural and economic life to be gradually lifted. The following regulations therefore only apply until April 2, 2022 and relate exclusively to teaching.

1. The previous level model (based on threshold values) of our university will be abandoned in line with the regulations of the state of Lower Saxony.
2. **Access to the University of Applied Sciences Emden/Leer will only be granted to vaccinated, recovered or tested people (3G).** The G status is randomly checked by an external service provider.
3. **It is mandatory to wear a mouth-nose cover (FFP2 mask) in all interior rooms of the university.** Excluded - as in the past - are presenters and people who, due to a disability or previous illnesses, such as severe heart or lung diseases, cannot reasonably be expected to wear a mouth and nose cover due to the higher breathing resistance. The university asks that you bring a corresponding certificate with you.
4. The event rooms can be fully occupied.
5. There is no tracking using the "inhel" registration app.

Regulations correspond to the planned changes to the Lower Saxony Corona Ordinance insofar as these apply to university operations. **Unfortunately, we are not yet able to assess in detail, which regulations will apply from April 2, 2022.** However, we assume that the obligation to wear a mouth and nose cover will remain in place

5. Scheduling and Room Planning for Face – to – Face and Online Teaching

The beginning and end of the lectures as well as the examination periods remain as planned:

- Lecture start: 01.03.2022
- End of lecture: 10.06.2022
- Start of examination period: 11.06.2022

The allocation of the rooms is the same as before the pandemic; the rooms can also be planned accordingly. Rooms should be planned for all courses, even if they take place online.

Lecturers can also deliver their courses online in the spring term 2022 regardless of the university incidence value, provided this is didactically justifiable and practically feasible. Taking into account the requirements of the module descriptions and the respective examination regulations, this also applies to the choice of the type of examination. The decision about the offered teaching format is made by the lecturer. However, you are asked to plan attendance formats in accordance with the character of the campus university, also plan face-to-face units or formats and to coordinate closely with the dean of the faculty.

Regardless of this, all university members must always expect that a deterioration of the pandemic situation will make it necessary to close the university (possibly also at short notice). As a result, even if face-to-face teaching is planned, it may be necessary to switch to online teaching again.

6. Regulations for Students in Quarantine

A special group are students who have to be in quarantine due to an infection with SARS-CoV-2. In the case of an officially ordered quarantine, suitable compensatory measures must be agreed with the students concerned in order to avoid disadvantages. The students are asked to actively report to the lecturers. Lecturers are asked to offer additional consultation hours for this group of students. A summary of blackboard pictures or something similar, for example as a photo protocol, can also be helpful for follow-up work. The affected students should, however, also check to what extent it will be possible to independently follow up on the content of the event by exchanging ideas with fellow students. This type of personal responsibility and self-management corresponds to Humboldt's ideal of education and is an essential part of a degree.