

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 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.

Due to the special framework conditions, the university management asks all employees, lecturers and students to communicate directly and openly and to talk to each other in the event of problems.

2. Relevant Regulation

Up to now, the “Lower Saxony Ordinance on Infection Preventive Protective Measures against the Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 and its variants” was decisive for the actions of the university management. All protective measures, hygiene concepts as well as control and follow-up regulations of our university were based on these legal framework conditions. As a result of the new version of the Infection Protection Act (IfSG) of March 20th, 2022, it is no longer possible to maintain the previous protection standard. From April 3, 2022, the state can only order binding measures in a few areas or would have to make use of the so-called hotspot regulation. The state of Lower Saxony has so far made it clear that it will not initially exercise this regulatory option.

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 clear majority of students and teachers still want to enable face-to-face teaching. A query to the departments resulted in a clear vote. 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.

As already described, the federal corona protection measures expire on April 2nd, 2022. The university must therefore determine the necessary basic protection measures itself on the basis of workplace protection. The hygiene concept, which was developed on this basis, will be published separately.¹ The hygiene concept aims to enable safe working and studying in presence, taking into account protection against the risk of infection, to limit the risk of infection for all employees and students and to protect risk groups in particular protect.

Based on the hygiene concept, the following regulations apply to **teaching** from April 4th, 2022:

1. It is compulsory to wear a mouth-nose cover (FFP2 mask) in all interior rooms of the university.²
2. The event rooms can be fully occupied. There may not be more people in the seminar and event rooms than there are or planned seats.
3. Persons who show symptoms of illness that can be linked to corona disease may not enter the campus of the University of Emden or Leer, even if they present valid proof in accordance with the 3G rule.³
4. Adequate ventilation must be ensured in all seminar and event rooms and corridors.⁴
5. All individuals are required to abide by the AHA Rule.⁵

¹The hygiene concept is based on the SARS-CoV-2 occupational safety standard of the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (BMAS) of February 22nd, 2021, based on the current version of the SARS-CoV-2 Infection Protection Measures Ordinance and the recommendations of the Robert Koch Institute.

²Excluded - 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.

³The symptoms include, for example but not exclusively, cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat, or disorders of the sense of smell and/or taste.

⁴If possible, the rooms should be ventilated at regular intervals (20-5-20 principle) via windows.

⁵Hands should be washed and disinfected regularly

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.