



**Präsidium**

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Dear students, dear lecturers of the Ulm University,

I am writing to inform you about the current status of planning for the winter semester 2021/22. With the motto "Back on Campus", the Ulm University wants to emphasise its self-image as a presence university, which is a place of teaching, learning and research, but also of professional-collegial discussion and social encounter. We want to welcome teachers and students back to campus as far as the situation allows in the autumn.

The background to our planning looks like this at the moment: Nobody can predict how the infection situation or the vaccination progress will develop in October and which hygiene rules will apply in detail in the winter semester. Long-term planning at these times is therefore very difficult. Nevertheless, I have hope that we will return to significantly more presence in studies and teaching in the next winter semester.

Assuming that minimum distances between people in particular will still have to be observed and that it will still not be possible for some students to be on site, we are currently planning with Level C (restricted attendance) of the Ulm Level Model for study operations, with the option of extending this in accordance with the legal provisions then in force. Level C means that the study programme will be a mixture of online and face-to-face courses:

- Events that can be scheduled in presence:
  - o Practical events (number of participants according to room capacity) that require special laboratory or work rooms at the university, in particular laboratory practicals, practical training components with patient contact in compliance with the specifications of the clinics and teaching hospitals, preparation courses, as well as events with predominantly practical teaching components,
  - o Courses with 15-25 participants, e.g. small lectures in the Master's programme, interactive teaching formats such as seminars, tutorials and colloquia, whose learning content benefits strongly from presence, and courses with 15-25 participants, which are conducive, for example, to the flipped classroom method to supplement online teaching



- Excursions/field practicals in buildings and on the university grounds
  - Special events, e.g. the StuVe's first-semester introductions and other events to support and integrate new students (number of people according to room capacity) (weekly or otherwise)
  - Meetings to conduct university admission procedures, entrance examinations and selection procedures, including study aptitude tests,
  - Laboratory work, especially in connection with final theses and doctoral dissertations.
- Online events
- Courses with larger numbers of participants (>25-30), usually lectures with large numbers of participants and little interaction, are offered asynchronously online. Lecturers record their lectures independently with Zoom.
  - Should there be further openings in the course of the winter semester due to the then applicable *Corona Verordnung Studienbetrieb* BW and in particular the abolition of minimum distances, lecturers are free to open lectures for larger numbers of participants in accordance with the applicable hygiene regulations, for example in the form of hybrid events.
- Opening of the University Library/Learning Areas/PC Pools
- The research and teaching facilities remain open to students for their progress in their studies (e.g. for seminar papers and theses); learning spaces and PC pools are open.
  - Additional learning spaces will be created as far as possible.

As already mentioned, the study programme will be a mixture of online and face-to-face courses. Examinations will be possible in presence or in alternative formats as before. I expect that in each degree programme there will again be significantly more face-to-face teaching. We are endeavouring to enable students to participate in online teaching between their face-to-face courses. However, this requires stable Wi-Fi connectivity and also a sufficient number of seats where students can participate in synchronous online teaching with their laptop or tablet. Synchronous online formats, in which students have to access the online offering at a fixed time, should therefore be avoided or must be designed in such a way that students receive an equivalent asynchronous teaching offering (e.g. recording).

We aim to equip as many seminar rooms and lecture halls as possible with transmission and recording technology for the winter semester. For students who are abroad and cannot enter due to the pandemic or who cannot attend face-to-face events due to illness or quarantine, lectures and courses with relatively little interaction, whether online or face-to-face, are to be recorded. This does not apply to highly interactive formats such as seminars and practicals or interactive supplementary events to lectures. These are not usually recorded. Recording courses will not replace face-to-face study, but it will provide more flexibility and help to avoid learning delays.

As in previous semesters, a Moodle course will be created for each course. The course coordinators will create overview pages on the courses offered in their department, which can be accessed from a central page (<https://www.uni-ulm.de/studium/aktuelle-informationen-zum-studium-an-der-universitaet-ulm/>) with information on all aspects of the degree programme.

The last three semesters have been a great challenge, which we have mastered thanks to the commitment of so many and during which we have all also learned in the use of modern media technology. The lecturers



have produced excellent teaching and learning materials, which you are of course welcome to use in the future. As teachers, I would like to encourage you to combine classroom and online formats. The past semesters have shown that the flipped classroom method in particular has proven its worth. Here, online learning materials (videos, self-tests... on Moodle) are worked on by the students independently and flexibly in terms of time, while discussion formats or consultation hours with the lecturers take place in presence. I see the planning for the coming winter semester as a step towards a modern, attractive study programme, which also incorporates the experiences with online teaching. I trust in the good cooperation with you and look forward to more student life on campus.

Best regards  
Yours

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Prof. Dr. Dr. Olga Pollatos  
- Vice president education -