Welcome to the winter semester 2021/22

Dear lecturers at the University of Ulm, dear colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a good start to the lecture period of the new semester. This semester is a re-start for all of us. After a long phase in which only a very limited number of students were able to attend classes, we are starting a semester with significantly more events and activities on campus. With this transitional semester, we are getting closer to the normal life on campus that we had hoped for so long.

However, the pandemic still requires strict hygiene rules, and increased attendance under the prevailing pandemic conditions is still new for us. Please understand that procedures will not always run smoothly, improvisation will be necessary and you, as teachers, will continue to be greatly challenged. If we show consideration for each other and support each other, the new start in the presence can be successful.

The key to a largely successful return to the university is Corona vaccinations. With a high vaccination rate among students and lecturers, the distance rules in lecture halls and seminar rooms can be relaxed in perspective, and more events can be offered on site again. The most important points are summarised again below. Please take the time to read the extensive information again.

1. anyone who has not yet had the opportunity to be vaccinated can take up a low-threshold offer at the University of Ulm.

On Wednesday, 20 October (from 08:00 - 12:00), and on Wednesday, 27 October (from 12:00 - 17:30), a mobile vaccination team of the German Red Cross (DRK) will come to Ulm University - South Entrance (gallery at Bistro Southside 1st floor - access is signposted).
It is not necessary to make an appointment. Please bring your identity card - and if possible your vaccination certificate and health insurance card.

The vaccination campaign is open to all interested parties. Students of the Ulm University of Technology, citizens of Ulm, etc. are also welcome.

2. testing option for non-immunised persons
It is the clear line of the MWK and the state of Baden-Württemberg to rely on vaccinations whenever possible; the rapid tests for persons who have not yet been vaccinated have no longer been free of charge in the federal government since 11 October. Corresponding exceptions can be seen on the RKI website; among others, foreign students with vaccinations not recognised in Germany can probably still get tested free of charge until at least the end of November.

For unvaccinated students who also do not have medical proof of recovery from SARS-CoV-II, a negative rapid test at a certified testing station (citizen test centre, pharmacy, general practitioner or similar), which is not older than 24 h at the start of the event, or a negative PCR test proof, which is not older than 48 h at the start of the event, is a prerequisite for attending courses or staying at the university (exception exams see below).

Employees/teachers are offered a COVID test twice a week. Employees who have not been vaccinated or have not recovered and have direct contact with external persons are obliged to accept the offered self-tests (without certificate - to be collected from the caretaker’s office) or otherwise take rapid antigen tests twice a week. The corresponding evidence must be kept for four weeks and presented to the competent authority upon request.

Temporarily, a COVID testing option will be set up at the University of Ulm. There, supervised tests are offered on Mondays (7:30 - 9:00 a.m.) and Wednesdays (11:00 - 12:30 p.m.) in N24, room 133.

For a certain transitional period, the state is allowing us to hand out remaining stocks of self-tests free of charge to students who still need a test to take part in their studies. Until 10 November at the latest, the University of Ulm can also issue the test offer, which is actually available for employees, to students. The test certificate is valid for 24 h for students.

3. hygiene rules in the study area
No-entry ban
Courses may not be attended by persons who:
- are subject to a segregation obligation in connection with the coronavirus,
- wear neither a medical mask nor an FFP2 mask,
- have no proof of testing, vaccination or recovery.
- have COVID-like symptoms
- refuse to provide contact details

To lift the participation ban, which can be imposed for example if people have COVID-like symptoms, they need a negative PCR test, not older than 48 h. The health authority decides on the lifting of quarantine obligations in the case of a Corona disease.

Behaviour in the building, compulsory masking and 3G testing
Only demonstrably vaccinated, recovered or tested (3G) persons are allowed to participate in courses. Lecturers and supervisory staff in common areas are authorised to check 3G attendance requirements.

A minimum distance of 1.5 m from other persons must be maintained throughout the university and regular hand hygiene and cough and sneeze etiquette must be observed. Gatherings are to be avoided, this applies in particular to circulation areas and shared spaces such as break rooms and tea kitchens.

In university buildings, a medical face mask or FFP2 mask must be worn in all corridors, in areas with public traffic.

In university rooms, masks are compulsory whenever the minimum distance between participants cannot be permanently maintained. At events where participants maintain a distance of 1.5 m from each other permanently, the mask may be dispensed with.

People are directed through separate entrances and exits. This is not always possible in teaching rooms. In this case, students must be informed in good time and checks must be carried out before the entrances to ensure that the distances are maintained and that no “bunches” of people form.

The following are considered as 3G proof:

- A complete vaccination certificate (e.g. vaccination certificate with 2nd vaccination for at least 14 days, digital vaccination certificate, official vaccination certificate),
- a certificate, e.g. issued by the family doctor, confirming that the patient has been infected with Covid for no more than 6 months,
- a negative rapid test at a test station specially commissioned for this purpose in accordance with § 6 paragraph 1 of the Coronavirus Test Ordinance of 21 September 2021 (BAnz AT 21 September 2021 V1) (citizen test centre, pharmacy, general practitioner or similar), which is not older than 24 hours at the start of the event, or a negative PCR test certificate which is not older than 48 hours at the start of the event.
- A negative test carried out by a non-certified testing facility under supervision (employer, association, other university or similar) cannot be used for admission to other facilities or events. For employees, the self-test issued twice a week by the university is also valid as proof of testing. They must document their negative test results.

Persons without such proof are excluded from participation in the course. Violation of the participation requirements may result in temporary exclusion from the course and a fine. **An exception to the 3G rule only applies to examinations.** Here, no 3G proof is required.

The control of the participation requirements in designated learning rooms and areas is carried out daily and individually by the supervising persons. The control of the 3G participation requirements in courses is carried out on a random basis by the lecturers within the framework of a scientific pilot project (https://www.uni-ulm.de/universitaet/informationen-zum-coronavirus/3g-modellversuch/). I have already informed you about this in a previous e-mail.

**People who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons must prove their 3G status before each course.**
Stay at the University
The Corona VO Studienbetrieb allows students to stay at the University only after pre-registration and under control of the 3G requirements. If students want to stay at the university between two courses in presence or for studying, they have two options:

- They can book a seat in the library at https://campusonline.uni-ulm.de/CoronaNG/user/veranstaltungen.html Kommunikations- und Informationszentrum (kiz) --> kiz-vergabe-bib: Vergabe von Seätzen im Lernort Bibl.-Zentrale (in German)
- You book yourself a seat in one of the common areas within the University from 18.10.2021 under https://campusonline.uni-ulm.de/CoronaNG/user/veranstaltungen.html Central University Administration (ZUV) --> Dezernat V Gebäudemanagement --> Aufenthaltsflächen (Sonstiges)

Library staff or student hygiene scouts coordinate reservations and monitor compliance with hygiene rules. **It is not permitted to stay in a non-supervised free room without a reservation or to stay in the corridors for a longer period of time.**

We are still looking for people to volunteer as hygiene scouts in order to be able to offer as many residencies as possible. Student hygiene scouts work under a paid auxiliary contract. Please assist in finding helpers or offer to help. If you are interested, write to hygienescouts@uni-ulm.de.

### Room capacities

The room capacities have been adjusted. Masks are compulsory if the 1.5 m distance is not observed.

- Teaching rooms with a capacity of up to 35 people have been fully re-seated and may be fully occupied.
- Teaching rooms with a capacity of 36 to 70 persons were seated with 35 seats. Courses with a maximum of 35 persons may be held here.
- Teaching rooms with a capacity of more than 70 persons have been half-seated, if possible. They may be occupied up to 50%. In rooms with fixed furniture, this is easy for lecturers to control if they make sure that there is always a space between the students.

In lecture halls with fixed rows of seats, seats that are 1.5 m apart have been marked with green dots. These can be used for exams and events that want to waive the mask requirement. If you wish to hold spaced events in other rooms, you must ensure that the distance is maintained yourself. **Please do not change the settings of chairs and tables in the teaching rooms.** Those following must be able to rely on finding a sufficient number of seats.

### Ventilation

- The user instructions posted in the rooms apply.
- Rooms should generally be shock-ventilated for at least 15 minutes before being used, especially if other people have been there before. In rooms without technical ventilation, the windows should be opened much more often than usual. Based on the current situation, a rhythm of 20 minutes is appropriate. A ventilation time of 5 to 10 minutes is recommended. In the winter months, 3 to 5 minutes is sufficient. Additional CO2 traffic lights have been installed in all rooms. These indicate whether a room needs to be ventilated.
- In the rooms of the university with technical ventilation (laboratories, lecture halls), a constant exchange of air is guaranteed. However, these rooms should also be ventilated for at least 15 minutes before use if possible, especially if other people have been there before. For the efficiency of technical ventilation, it is necessary that all persons leave the room.
Contact data collection
In order to ensure the tracking of possible infection chains, the contact details of people who are in a room are collected via the KNApp UU electronic recording system. Please remind your students at the start of the event to scan the QR code on the room/area with a smartphone or use the web link provided to enter their data.

4. approval of attendance courses by the Vice-President for Academic Affairs
All face-to-face courses, with the exception of examinations and examination views, must be approved by the Vice-President for Teaching (vizepraesident-lehre@uni-ulm.de). The required documents can be found on the Occupational Safety page (https://www.uni-ulm.de/einrichtungen/zuv/hauptseite-dezernat-v-gebaedemannagement/abteilungen/alt-arbeits-und-umweltschutz-arbeitssicherheit/uebersicht-der-aufgaben/gebrauchsanweisung-mnb-hygienerегeln/).

- Courses without practical components do not require a risk assessment and only have to comply with the user instructions for lecture halls and seminar rooms. Please use the document "Muster-Hygienekonzept Studienbetrieb Lehrveranstaltungen" for the application and send it to vizepraesident-lehre@uni-ulm.de.
- For courses with practical components, a risk assessment must be submitted in addition to the sample hygiene concept. Please use the document "Muster Gefährdungsbeurteilung Lehrveranstaltungen zum Infektionsschutz vor SARS CoV-2". Send both documents to vizepraesident-lehre@uni-ulm.de. From here, the documents will be forwarded to Occupational Safety and checked there.

5. information on current hygiene rules
You can always find current information on the applicable hygiene rules at: https://www.uni-ulm.de/universitaet/informationen-zum-coronavirus/ and in the FAQs: https://www.uni-ulm.de/universitaet/informationen-zum-coronavirus/faqs-universitaet-ulm/#c818985

Please continue to remain confident and patient and have understanding for each other. I thank you for your great support in the last semesters and wish us a good success of the new semester.

Kind regards
Yours
Prof. Dr. Dr. Olga Pollatos
- Vice President Education -