

Dear students of the faculty of mechanical engineering,

today there is really a lot of news about "teaching without a lecture hall", because a whole series of really important points have been clarified in the last few days.

First, however, a number of technical aspects concerning the Examination Office:

- There are still no local consultation hours. In urgent matters, virtual consultations can be held via web meeting or telephone. Please formulate your request in the e-mail as clearly and in as much detail as possible so that the person in charge at the Examination Office can prepare himself/herself optimally and select the most suitable form for the consultation.
- Applications requiring the submission of originals or certified copies (e.g. applications for credit transfer for academic and examination work) must be sent via the deadline mailbox or letter post. All other applications, e.g. opening of the graduation procedure, application for certificates, application for waiver, etc. should be sent by e-mail from your TU e-mail address.
- Theses must be submitted in due time by post or in the deadline mailbox with the protocol for the thesis, CD and signed declaration of independence.
- The certificates will be sent to all graduates by letter post until further notice.
- The examination office/interns/student advisory service is not regularly staffed until further notice. However, it can be reached by telephone from 9:00 to 16:00 daily.

Then in the last days the question was asked several times what actually happens with the practical training in electrical engineering, because there the Opal courses have no content and there are no answers to questions. Three days ago I got a first piece of information which unfortunately has just turned out to be final - the colleagues in electrical engineering, in contrast to what we do in MW, but also the colleagues in physics, do not want to offer the practical training this semester, so it would not be back on schedule until next summer :(. Since this would put our whole PO transfer in a spin and would also otherwise create an additional burden in the coming summer, which we do not think is justifiable, we are currently working on a work-around that will solve the story in a way that will not cause any disadvantages for you. It will take a few more days, but we'll get it done. We have already solved worse things there ;-).

Then a solution has finally been found to the issue of examination insights. We will make use of digital concepts and give you the opportunity to take a look at the exams of the winter semester. I will inform my colleagues this evening about the corresponding possibilities and hope that by the end of the coming week the corresponding dates and procedures will be published on the websites of all professorships so that we can deal with this problem as soon as possible. One request: please only apply for an insight if it is really necessary, the digital version of the examination insights involves considerable additional work, and at the moment we are all running at the limit - so please handle the topic with care. We need the same people who organise the insights, also to keep the digital teaching going...

And the subject of examinations in summer has been given a face by yesterday's [Senate resolution](#). It is clear that we will offer the exams. It is also clear that we will use new methods and alternative formats in many subjects. This is something that is being worked on intensively everywhere at the moment - not easy, but perhaps a completely new impetus to move more in the direction of "competence testing". It will certainly take another two weeks before we know which examinations can be offered in which form. But one thing is certain - they will be offered and they will be designed in such a way that you will not have any disadvantages from the situation. And if that doesn't work out somewhere, you can also return the results, although I would strongly advise you to do this only in real emergencies. Because if you have to take the exam again, it will increase the stress in one of the following semesters and there is the danger of a worse grade, because if you return the results, the grade of the later exam will automatically count. At the moment we are trying to do everything possible to ensure that this semester does not cause a break in your studies, and you should definitely do so too!

Final is another important point, which follows the remark just made and which was also brought to me by my exercise tutors: Please take advantage of the offers we make. Please try to arrange your day so that you stay on the ball during your studies. Ideally, attend digital lectures when they are live, go to the exercises (even if the rooms are only digital), prepare intensively for the exercises and follow up the lectures. Ask questions - in the exercises, in the consultations and also in the digital lectures. This semester is more intensive than ever before: your personal responsibility for your studies is the key to success. We can offer as many digital formats as you like - this is only of any use if you use them! And we all want this to be a successful semester!

Furthermore: If you have any questions or concerns regarding the whole situation with regard to teaching during these weeks, please send them to

kummerkasten-mw@tu-dresden.de and please use your TUD mail address without exception (in contrast to the normal use of the Kummerkasten).

And there is still the request to you: If you notice particularly great teaching offers in this complicated situation - please let me know the corresponding examples (preferably with course, special concept, name of the lecturer and if possible his e-mail and telephone) - the social media channels of the TUD present these activities publicly ([eLearning #TUDDigital](#)) and we should have the lighthouses in mechanical engineering publicly with us!

So much for today, a nice long weekend to you all.

Stay healthy!

Stefan Odenbach