

Dear students of the faculty of mechanical engineering,

it's getting really summer and that means in the summer semester: it's actually always approaching the end of the semester.

Two more weeks of "teaching without a lecture hall" lie ahead of us and that means - the preparation for the exams is really starting. On the part of the lecturers the tasks have already been selected, for the online exams the last tests before the trial exams are on the way, but you also have to make preparations here!

- First of all, you should not forget to register for the exams - for all formats: examinations, practical exercises, seminars but also the ET-exercise replacement! Registration is only open until **Sunday, 05.07.20!**
- If you have digital exams coming up, you should definitely register on the **OPAL Exam@TUD** exam platform <https://exam.zih.tu-dresden.de> a few days before the trial exams. Otherwise you will not be able to participate in the exam/trial exam!

A second point that is very important to me is the evaluation of teaching. This is - as already mentioned - done digitally. For this, the lecturers have given you links for the courses to be evaluated (this does not happen in all courses, as we can only do a finite amount of evaluations in digital form). These links are only active **until 05.07.20 - please use the possibility** to give feedback! It is very important for us to know what worked well in digital formats and what was less great. And the best way to do this is this way! And in the events where the big ZQA evaluation does not work, there is the possibility that the lecturers use an Opal-suitable evaluation sheet - feel free to ask, we have developed this thing especially for this purpose ;-)

And a request in this context, which I have every semester: Please take the evaluation seriously - we do it too!

And then there are always questions concerning the winter semester. Granted - I wish I could answer all of them, but for that I would have to be a visionary at least... But I can give some answers:

- Why does the lecture period start 2 weeks later than normal, when we started on time even this semester? The reason is quite simple - the late handing out of the Abitur certificates. This causes delays in the admission procedures for the courses of study with restricted admissions, and among these, the teacher training courses are the core problem, because in teacher training modules and exams from different faculties (also from MW) are combined. And since the first semesters here have to start later,

we can't advance for two weeks - let's be honest, getting into mathematics in week 3 doesn't make the first semester any easier...

- Does this mean a shortening or a compression of the semester? Very clear answer - it is a shortening! A letter from the Rector made it very clear that it really means that we have to adapt the material to the 13 weeks and not just read 15 weeks in 13. This is a lot of work in the preparation for the semester - but all the colleagues I have heard also see this as an opportunity to thoroughly rethink lectures.
- Do the planned credit points still exist? Of course - the letter of the rector is clear here as well - nothing changes in the credit points!
- Will the winter semester go digital? You'd really have to be a visionary now. Nobody can say today how the infection situation will develop in the next three months. And no one can say how the political assessment of the situation will change. If you take the current situation, I would predict that large lectures will be online, but that there will be much more presence in exercises and small lectures.

What else is important?

- The "bulletin board" with offers for work in the specialist internship (<https://bildungsportal.sachsen.de/opal/auth/RepositoryEntry/23156424707/>) continues to fill up with exciting topics!
- Don't forget that both the "Introduction to the fields of study" and the "Introduction to scientific work" are still ongoing!
- And if you have experienced any special digital offers that have not yet been recognized under [#TUDDigital](#) - please let me know!

Furthermore: If you have any questions or concerns regarding the whole situation with regard to teaching in 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).

So far so good, hang in there and stay healthy!

Stefan Odenbach