



TU Dresden, 01062 Dresden
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Technology



Dresden, 15. Januar 2021

Dear students of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering,

I think the most discussed topic at the moment is the upcoming exams and the course of the exam period in general. I have received many emails about this, tried to answer a lot of them and certainly didn't manage to do everything, but I think I should be able to address all the main points in this email.

- First of all, the question is always asked whether there will be **face-to-face or digital examinations**. As things stand today, both variants will be used. There will be subjects in which exams are written in presence and those that are examined in the digital space. Both methods have advantages and disadvantages, and the support I receive from students for both options is pretty much balanced. Since the university administration does not make any compulsory specifications here, we cannot do this either and every examiner is therefore free to choose which way he or she wants to go.
- For **face-to-face examinations**, we clearly have the problem of infection control. There is a hygiene concept for each examination that prescribes appropriate distances, provides for disinfectants and also stipulates that **masks must be worn during the event**. Everyday masks, not FFP2, because it is too difficult to breathe with them, but we have already been using everyday masks for months at the classroom events, so it should work and it is also the optimal protective structure that we can use. And of course your **own responsibility** is important! No gatherings (and certainly not without a mask and distance) in front of the examination rooms. No entry to the room in a crowd but individually...
- With **digital exams**, the problem of cheating is raised again and again - both on the part of the teachers and on your part. Since the university does not give us clearance for proctoring systems, we have to resort to other strategies here: handwritten notes that have to be uploaded, pattern recognition in the online evaluations and the like offer very good opportunities to detect such things. And I also say quite clearly - I also trust you at this point! Last semester, some students wrote to me that it would be a "question of honour" for them to pass the exams cleanly after the effort we had put in. A good attitude! And to the few others, be

Postal address (letters)

TU Dresden, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
01062 Dresden

Postal address (parcels etc.)

TU Dresden, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
Helmholtzstraße 10, 01069 Dresden

Visitor address

Helmholtzstraße 5
Zeuner Building, I.
OG



Side entrance
George-Bähr-Str. 3c,
marked parking spaces
in the courtyard. Parking
spaces in the inner
courtyard

Internet

<http://tu-dresden.de/mw>
No access for
electronically signed and
encrypted documents.



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warned: if cheating is found, it is - as with normal attendance exams - a 5 and you CANNOT give it back!

- We sat down with the faculty again this afternoon to discuss the entire examination problem. In many places, there will be a switch to digital and we have set up a task force - at this point, a big thank you to the colleagues who are involved - which will advise on the development of appropriate examinations.
- One point that has also been asked frequently: The university management had propagated extending the examination period into April if necessary... We as a faculty definitely do not intend to do that! There may be individual cases where examinations are still necessary after the regular examination period. But - we are of the opinion that we all - you as well as the staff in the chairs - need a break at some point!
- One question that I have not yet been able to clarify concerns distance students in connection with attendance exams. I have asked the university management whether the TUD will issue a letter that allows them to book a hotel. I am still waiting for an answer.
- **Our goal is and remains to offer you the opportunity to complete the semester according to the rules!**

One problem that we unfortunately cannot solve trivially is the **PO transition**. We knew from the outset that this would be a tricky and time-consuming issue, and then the Corona problem hit us in the face. We know that this creates some problems, also because there are a number of exams that cannot be offered at the moment. Therefore, we have decided to **extend the transfer phase until the end of the summer semester 2021, i.e. until 1.10.2021**. This means that the examinations for the old PO will also be offered again in the summer semester (only the examinations, not the courses!). This means an immense additional workload for both the examiners and the examinations office, but it is the only way to prevent the upcoming problems. However, the transfer will take place on 1.10.2021 in any case, i.e. if you still have deficiencies in your examination portfolio, this can no longer be changed afterwards!

What else is important at the moment?

- **Exam enrolment is still open for all until 24.01.21!**
- Please remember to register for the exams for the **subjects from the catalogue modules as well!**
- Important for the **5th semester** - you can only enrol in the modules of the specialisation if you have registered for the specialisation (<https://tud.link/ty3k>).
- The current transition to the purely digital world naturally also applies to the Examinations Office. Therefore, please send **applications etc. only by e-mail!**
- And please - not everything can be done from one moment to the next. Not even in the examination office. Due to an illness, we are now working with one less person and those who are there are working far beyond all reasonable limits. If something doesn't happen immediately, we simply have to ask for a little patience!
- The statement - everything digital - naturally also applies to the **submission of theses and supporting documents**. Here we have already returned to the

concept we had in the hard lockdown in spring: You upload your thesis to OwnCloud at <https://cloudstore.zih.tu-dresden.de/> (access with your ZIH login) and send the link to the thesis to your examiner in the examination office (for theses!) and the supervising university lecturer by the deadline. You then submit the print version as soon as there are copy shops again... Please keep this procedure in this form until we announce a different procedure here!

- The **Mechanical Engineering Learning Space** is active at <https://matrix.tu-dresden.de/#/room/#Maschinenwesen-Lernraum-MW:tu-dresden.de> - an important tool for preparing for the exam period!

So much for today, let us hope that our plans remain feasible.

Stay healthy!

Stefan Odenbach