Dear students of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering,

The examination period has begun and I hope that you have coped well with your first examinations - whether in presence or also digitally. There will certainly always be a few minor problems, but everything I have heard and observed so far could be solved without any problems by a short mail exchange. So I think - and hope - that we will experience a relatively normal exam period.

But of course there is also a range of concrete information that is important for the whole operation:

- Announced last week - the video of the information event on the specialist internship is ready and can be viewed here: [http://bit.ly/Fachpraktikum-Video](http://bit.ly/Fachpraktikum-Video). And the slides of the event have been available here since last week [https://tud.link/jl6h](https://tud.link/jl6h).
- Of course, in the purely digital world, the examination office also operates digitally. Therefore, as always, we urgently request that you only send applications etc. by e-mail!
- 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/](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.
- As already mentioned, the Mechanical Engineering Learning Room remains active during the exam period at [https://matrix.tu-dresden.de/#/room/#Maschinenwesen-Lernraum-MW:tu-dresden.de](https://matrix.tu-dresden.de/#/room/#Maschinenwesen-Lernraum-MW:tu-dresden.de) - a support we offer for this complicated exam period as a possibility to exchange about topics. Make sure you take advantage of this, because exchanging views on problematic topics is the best way to learn something quickly and effectively!

And that brings us back to the topic of the BaFöG extension. It is now clear - and communicated by the Studentenwerk - that the legislator does not consider SoSem20 and WiSem20/21 as part of the standard period of study. This means that if you were not granted leave of absence in these semesters, your standard period of study will be extended by 2 semesters. And if you were still within the standard period of study in Dresden, 12. Februar 2021
SoSem20, this also means that your BaFöG (if you were not on leave of absence) continues to run (always assuming that I have understood the relevant texts correctly ;-))! Very importantly, the **non-credit of the semester**, which many had applied for after SoSem20, does not count as a leave of absence, i.e. it does not prevent the continued payment of the BaFöG! How to proceed with the question of non-credit/extension is still being worked out at the moment - the Enrolment Office will inform you about this in the near future. So please be patient for a few more days and do not ask the Examinations Office or the Enrolment Office, as this will only delay the development of the implementation guidelines ;-).

And finally, as always, the advice: if you have questions and concerns about the whole Corona situation with regard to teaching, please send them to kummerkasten-mw@tu-dresden.de, using your TUD mail address without exception (as opposed to the normal use of the Kummerkasten). Regardless of the fact that I’m pretending to take a few days off at the moment, I’m at least online enough to identify and hopefully solve important problems - maybe not quite as fast as normal, but usually always fast enough.

So much for today, I wish you a good start into the exam period!
Stay healthy!

Stefan Odenbach