



TU Dresden, 01062 Dresden  
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Technology



Dresden, 30. April 2021

Dear students of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering,

number 50 of these infomails - that shows how long we have been struggling with "teaching without a lecture hall" and the Corona virus.

And for many emails I have been wishing that I could finally announce a return to normal operations, or at least be able to announce something positive. But unfortunately, even today it is news that worries me a lot.

But let's start with the harmless things. The grades for the exams from the winter semester are now almost complete, and with them the question keeps coming up **whether you can return these grades**, as you did in the last summer semester. Yes, this is possible and must be done by **30.09.21 at the latest**. But I strongly warn - as I have often done - against returning grades from exams you have passed. This only leads to an increase in your exam load in the coming semesters, is no guarantee of a better grade (because it's not a free shot, once the grade is returned, it's gone), no one can predict with certainty today how the performance records for BAFöG will be calculated in a year's time, and similar risks and imponderables more. You should keep what you have finished ;-). In addition, many exams are no longer offered due to the PO change and you can then get into difficulties.

However, if you do want to return grades - please do so promptly and do not save it until the last moment. Otherwise there may be problems with registration for exams in the summer semester and - if there are a lot of returns in the critical phase - there may be massive bottlenecks and delays in processing in the examination office!

And that brings us to the **exams in the summer semester** and the things that are currently causing me the greatest concern. At the beginning of this week, the Vice-Rector for Education issued a decree that makes **attendance exams with more than 100 participants almost impossible**. And that's quite a lot of exams for us - it varies depending on the specialisation, but in total it's a considerable number. This has already led - after only a few days - to the cancellation of repeat exams that we wanted to offer again separately because of the PO change, and I have heard from numerous colleagues that they will probably not be able to offer exams at the end of the semester under these

*Postal address (letters)*

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*Postal address (parcels etc.)*

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Helmholtzstraße 10, 01069 Dresden

*Visitor address*

Helmholtzstraße 5  
Zeuner Building, I.  
OG  
Room 214



*Access*

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.*



**DRESDEN  
concept**  
Exzellenz aus  
Wissenschaft  
und Kultur

conditions. This is extremely bitter - although I have to say quite clearly that I can understand the colleagues who say that they can't cope with that now: the extra teaching workload in the last 13 months has been enormous, many chairs are running into serious problems because there was no time to write third-party funding applications and creating a digital exam the first time is an action that completely blocks several people for several months. But for our goal of ensuring a normal complete study process despite the virus, this is the biggest setback I can imagine. With this in mind, I would like to warn you once again not to return grades unnecessarily: If an exam with 150 participants is cancelled this semester, it will have to be written with 300 people next year - and if you look at that over the whole university, you can imagine the problems and restrictions that will come up for the exam planning, even if we could work normally again at that time.

Unfortunately, this is not good news, but I would like to point out that the responsibility for what is apparently coming our way does not lie with us in the faculty and it also does not lie with the teachers who cannot cope with such a change!

Finally, as always, please note: If you have questions and concerns about the whole Corona situation with regard to teaching, please send them to [kummerkasten-mw@tu-dresden.de](mailto:kummerkasten-mw@tu-dresden.de), using your TUD mail address without exception (as opposed to the normal use of the Kummerkasten).

So much for now, let's try to persevere even under ever worsening boundary conditions and make the best of the situation.  
And - stay healthy!

Stefan Odenbach