



TU Dresden, 01062 Dresden
Prof. Dr. rer. nat. habil.

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Technology



Dresden, 14. Januar 2022

Dear Maschinenwesen,

I know that the question of how the examinations will be conducted creates a lot of uncertainty and quantities of additional questions. For this reason, I would like to dedicate this evening's email quite clearly to this topic once again and clarify once more the individual points that are connected to the various forms of examinations that will be offered this semester, and which you must take into account! First of all, two essential points should be made very clear:

- For one thing, I am only the bearer of the news at this point - I neither made the regulations that must be observed this semester, nor was I involved in their creation! What I am trying to do here - and also in the mails sent to the circle of teachers in MW every Friday evening - is to summarise the regulations in a comprehensible way and to point out the consequences arising from these regulations. Because these are usually not addressed in the official documents, but must absolutely be taken into account in the preparation of the examination period - otherwise we will run into comprehensive chaos from mid-February on...
- The second point at this point is a very important hint: I know that papers are currently circulating again that make completely different claims than the regulations for the examinations published in the handouts of the rectorate (<https://tud.link/z78k>). I am aware that video surveillance, panning through the room in so-called "suspicious cases" and similar things do not really excite anyone, but they are - at least as of today - regulations for the coming examination period (regardless of what may be communicated and claimed differently from elsewhere - only the statements of the university administration are valid).

And now to the things that have come up as questions in the last few days, both with me and with the FSR MW:

- As mentioned in the last mail, there are basically three forms of examinations: the classic face-to-face examination, the purely digital examination and the mixed form in which a digital examination - e.g. in OpalExam - is written face-to-face at the TUD.

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
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.



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- Basically, you do not have the choice in which of the types you are examined! There is an examination offer and you can take it or not - but with a number of special regulations...
- Most questions are currently about the **purely digital examinations**: Here, the university management has decreed that examiners are obliged to **supervise examinations by means of video supervision**. And obligation means - no digital examination without video supervision!
- You will have to agree to this video supervision via a **privacy statement** - presumably, in all courses in which digital examinations will be held in the coming examination period, there will be corresponding enrolments in the Opal courses in which you will have to tick the appropriate box.
- You can withdraw this declaration of consent up to two weeks before the examination date. If you withdraw less than 2 weeks before the examination date, this will in all likelihood be regarded as a withdrawal from the examination.
- If you exercise your right to refuse the privacy statement and thus video supervision, you will be offered a **simultaneous digital on-site examination** - i.e. the concept we call hybrid examination.
- If you take the digital distance examination (and this applies both to the purely digital examination and to distance examinations within the framework of hybrid examinations), **you are responsible for the functionality of the required technology** (computer, internet, camera,...).
- The question has arisen several times now as to whether a few seconds of **internet or camera failure** then directly lead to the termination of the examination. In the end, it is up to the examiners to decide. I recommend that the lecturers in MW allow a waiting period of 5 minutes - this is roughly equivalent to going to the toilet in the lecture hall during the presence examination.
- However, if it takes longer, you will be excluded from the examination - i.e. you will not have failed and the examination attempt will not be lost, but you will not have taken part, so to speak. If you don't want to take this risk, the only option is the digital on-site exam.
- One question that has also come up frequently concerns the **use of cameras built into laptops**. Since we are supposed to create equal opportunities with this video supervision, I think that is out of the question. The camera has to see what you have on the table and what you are doing on the computer. If you were to take the laptop camera, you could easily run a fancy chat parallel to the exam and share the tasks with your fellow students - that is certainly not equal opportunity supervision ;-). From this point of view, the purchase of an **external webcam is unavoidable for digital exams**.
- In the case of **classical attendance examinations**, you can - if you can provide valid reasons - apply for a **disadvantage compensation for pandemic reasons** (this is done by submitting an application to the chairperson of the examination

board), with which you can be offered an alternative examination performance. What this looks like is a decision of the examiner! If you want to do this, please do it **within the next week**, because solutions have to be found!

I know: Both variants have their disadvantages and unpleasant peculiarities - that is something we have had to accept in many places in teaching in the last 2 years and we will also have to deal with it and live with it here. What is in no way a solution is not taking part in the exams! That only increases the exam load in the coming semesters and at the same time the deadlines run again!

Apart from that, just the tips that have already been given:

- There will be **NO possibility to return grades this semester!**
- Withdrawal from the examination is possible **up to the day before the examination** (no longer on the day of the examination)!
- You can always find an up-to-date **overview of the examination dates** at <https://tud.link/3513>.
- The **deadline for enrolment is 23.01.2022!**

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).

So much for today,

Please continue to stay healthy and don't let all the regulations and problems take away your desire to study - it will get better again!

Stefan Odenbach