



## FAQs on Studying with a Child during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Students with children have to combine their studies, childcare, the organization of everyday family life, and often a part-time job. They also face the challenge of securing not only their own livelihood, but also that of their child (ren). With the current situation shaped by the coronavirus pandemic, it has become much more difficult for students with children.

We have compiled some of the pressing issues, alongside information from relevant actors. We are continually adding new questions and answers to the FAQs. If you have any further questions, the counselling services of TU Dresden and the Student's Union (*Studentenwerk*) Dresden will be happy to help you.

Up-to-date information from the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) on assistance and support services during the coronavirus pandemic is available on the website of the BMFSFJ.

LINK: <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/themen/corona-pandemie>

We wish you all the best in these unprecedented times! Above all, it's important that you and your family stay healthy!

### Five categories:

Study organization

Childcare

Funding

Children

Counselling and service institutions

### 1. Category: Study organization

#### (1) Should I apply for a semester of leave of absence or for non-recognition of the semester if I can only partially pursue my studies due to a lack of childcare?

Pregnant women and students with children can apply to the Admissions Office for leave of absence from their studies for the period of maternity leave or the statutory parental leave. In accordance with the Federal Law on Parental Benefits and Parental Leave (BEEG), the Act on the Autonomy of Institutions of Higher Education in the Free State of Saxony (*SächsHSFG*) provides students with a total of six additional semesters of leave for childcare during the first three years of the child's life.

Students can find out what other options are currently available in the FAQ's under the menu item "Enrolment and Re-registration".

LINK: <https://tu-dresden.de/studium/im-studium/coronavirus#section-1-2>

#### (2) What can I do if I can only partially pursue my studies due to a lack of childcare?

At TU Dresden, it is currently possible to pursue part-time courses in all distance learning degree programs, as well as in many direct programs.

LINK: <https://tu-dresden.de/studium/vor-dem-studium/studienangebot/teilzeit-und-fernstudium>

### (3) How will the 2020/2021 winter semester be organized at TU Dresden?

On August 11, 2020, TU Dresden agreed on principles for the organization of the 2020/2021 winter semester.

LINK: [https://tu-dresden.de/studium/im-studium/ressourcen/dateien/corona\\_imstudium/organisation-wintersemester-2020-21.pdf?lang=de](https://tu-dresden.de/studium/im-studium/ressourcen/dateien/corona_imstudium/organisation-wintersemester-2020-21.pdf?lang=de)

### (4) What can I do if I can't submit all graded work for my degree program according to the course schedule due to a lack of childcare?

The validity of the university-wide regulations for studies and examination procedures to curtail the legal uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 crisis, (fundamental resolutions of the Senate on April 29, 2020) has been extended until October 25, 2020.

LINK: [https://tu-dresden.de/tu-dresden/gesundheitsmanagement/ressourcen/dateien/corona/tud-dokumente-intern/Beschluss-Senat-29-04-2020\\_Studium-Pruefungsverfahren\\_dt.pdf?lang=de](https://tu-dresden.de/tu-dresden/gesundheitsmanagement/ressourcen/dateien/corona/tud-dokumente-intern/Beschluss-Senat-29-04-2020_Studium-Pruefungsverfahren_dt.pdf?lang=de)

Independent of the coronavirus pandemic, the extended compensation for disadvantages - if this is anchored in the relevant examination regulations - can be applied for by contacting the Chairperson of the Examination Board.

§5 para. 4 of the Model Examination Regulations of TUD - Types of Graded Academic Work stipulates the following:

*If the student can credibly demonstrate that they are not able to complete graded academic work according to schedule due to the **caring for their own children (up to the age of 14)**, the Chairperson of the Examination Board shall allow the student to complete the work in an equivalent manner upon request. The Chairperson of the Examination Committee decides how the graded academic work is to be produced in consultation with the responsible examiner at their own discretion. The Chairperson of the Examination Committee decided on **an appropriate measure to compensate** for the disadvantages. Suitable measures to compensate for the disadvantages are, for example, extended time allowance, extended breaks, use of other media, use of other examination rooms within the university or another examination date. The same applies to preliminary graded work.*

Further contact persons are the Examination Offices, the Equal Opportunities Officers of the faculties and the Faculty Students' Councils. The *Campusbüro Uni mit Kind* will also be happy to support you in making use of the extended compensation for disadvantages.

LINK: <https://tu-dresden.de/intern/studium-und-lehre/ressourcen/dateien/studiengangsaengelenheiten/doks/arbeitshilfen/MBPO63.pdf?lang=de>

### (5) Does the time of maternity leave count towards the overall deadlines and time restrictions?

The Model Examination Regulations of TU Dresden (cf. §3 para. 4 Model Examination Regulations - Deadlines and Dates) stipulate the following for deadlines in connection with the completion of the graduation examination:

*The maternity leave period does not count towards overall time restriction and is therefore, the not taken into account. Regarding the claim for parental leave, please refer to §12 para. 2 of the Enrolment Regulations of Technische Universität Dresden.*

It does not correspond to the option of extended time allowance in connection with the compensation of disadvantages as described above.

LINK: <https://tu-dresden.de/intern/studium-und-lehre/ressourcen/dateien/studiengangsangelegenheiten/doks/arbeitshilfen/MBPO63.pdf?lang=de>

## **(6) What can I do if, due to the unavailability of childcare, I cannot complete all the assignments in my studies in the planned time?**

The validity or university-wide regulations for studies and examination procedures to curtail the legal uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 crisis, (fundamental resolutions of the Senate on April 29, 2020) has been extended until October 25, 2020..

LINK: [https://tu-dresden.de/tu-dresden/gesundheitsmanagement/ressourcen/dateien/corona/tud-dokumente-intern/Beschluss-Senat-29-04-2020\\_Studium-Pruefungsverfahren\\_dt.pdf?lang=de](https://tu-dresden.de/tu-dresden/gesundheitsmanagement/ressourcen/dateien/corona/tud-dokumente-intern/Beschluss-Senat-29-04-2020_Studium-Pruefungsverfahren_dt.pdf?lang=de)

In these exceptional times, if you are a student with responsibilities to your family, you can be sure of the understanding of your lecturers / module supervisors if you have not been able to complete some of the assignments in the given time. Therefore, do not hesitate to be candid about the challenges you are currently facing and jointly work out individual solutions that are suitable for both sides. If you require assistance in finding a solution, you can also contact the *Campusbüro Uni mit Kind* or Unit 9.3 Diversity Management, Coordinator for Family-Friendliness at TU Dresden.

## **2. Category: Childcare**

### **(7) When will day-care centers and schools reopen?**

Schools and childcare facilities are back in regular operation, subject to pandemic restrictions. The Saxon Cabinet passed a corresponding general decree on August 13, 2020.

LINK: <https://www.coronavirus.sachsen.de/download/SMS-Allgemeinverfuegung-Schulen-Kitas-2020-08-13.pdf>

## **3. Category: Funding**

Students with familial responsibilities are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic even beyond the digital start of the semester and the limited on-site teaching activities. For example, part-time jobs at major events or in the hospitality industry are no longer available. Instead, many questions arise: Are students entitled to unemployment or housing benefits? Does the postponed start of the semester have an effect on BAföG funding? Do the economic implications of the coronavirus crisis have an impact on child alimony payments? Questions like these will be answered by the *Campusbüro Uni mit Kind* family service centre, a cooperation between TU Dresden and the

Student's Union (*Studentenwerk*) Dresden, and by the Social Counselling Services of the Student's Union Dresden.

**(8) Lectures and courses are cancelled. I'm exceeding the standard period of study. Will I continue to receive BAföG?**

BAföG is granted beyond the maximum funding period, i.e. the standard period of study, e.g. if care for a close relative in need of care is provided within the domestic environment, and for "serious reasons". Interruptions in education due to a pandemic constitute such a serious reason. The same applies if examinations are postponed beyond the standard period of study due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, BAföG will continue to be granted beyond the standard period of study if assignments and examinations cannot be completed in due time due to closed day-care centers and schools and the resulting parental childcare responsibilities (cf. § 15, paragraph 3, p. 5). In this case, for the period of the extension, BAföG is not provided as a loan but as a grant.

LINK: <https://www.bmbf.de/de/faq-ausbildungsfoerderung-und-corona-krise-11215.html> More information

**(9) How do the coronavirus pandemic and the associated loss of income affect my parental allowance?**

The extraordinary situation caused by the novel coronavirus represents a particular hardship. Temporary adaptations are planned so that parents do not suffer any disadvantages in terms of parental benefits as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

LINK: <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/themen/corona-pandemie/finanzielle-unterstuetzung/faq-elterngeld-anpassung/fragen-und-antworten-zu-den-aenderungen-beim-elterngeld/154926>

**(10) My income is currently not sufficient to support my family. Can I apply for the emergency child benefit supplement ("emergency-KiZ")?**

Due to the coronavirus crisis, many families suffer unforeseen income losses. In the context of the coronavirus crisis, the child benefit supplement is now being converted into an "emergency KiZ" as part of the Federal Government's social protection package, which is intended to help with financial losses due to the current situation.

LINK: <https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/familie-und-kinder/notfall-kiz>

**(11) What is the Child Bonus?**

In order to relieve the burden on families during the coronavirus crisis, they will receive a child bonus for each child who would normally receive a child benefit allowance in September 2020. The bonus will amount to 300 euros in total and will be paid in two instalments - 200 euros in September and 100 euros in October. The child bonus is taxed but not credited against social security benefits.

LINK: <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/themen/corona-pandemie/finanzielle-unterstuetzung/faq-kinderbonus>

**(12) I am a single parent. Are there any special help measures for me?**

In order to take the special situation of single parents into account, the amount of financial help, regulated in § 24 b of the German Income Tax Act (EStG), will be increased from the current 1908 euros to 4008 euros for the years 2020 and 2021.

LINK: <https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/themen/corona-pandemie/finanzielle-unterstuetzung/faq-entlastungsbetrag-alleinerziehende-einkommenssteuer>

**(13) Is there any help for students in need? (see the FAQ regarding BAföG/Studienfinanzierung).**

**Loans granted by the KfW Development Bank (KfW) for German and international students who have fallen into financial difficulties because of the coronavirus**

LINK: [https://www.kfw.de/inlandsfoerderung/Privatpersonen/Studieren-Qualifizieren/Studium-finanzieren/?kfwmc=vt.sea.google.SEA\\_VT\\_Studienkredit\\_Allgemein\\_BK.{Anzeigengruppe}.{Anzeige}&wt\\_cc1=bildung&wt\\_cc2=pri|studieren-qualifizieren&wt\\_cc3=82025713368\\_kwd-311285257835\\_433623776525&wt\\_kw=b\\_82025713368\\_%2Bkfw%20%2Bkredit%20%2Bstudium](https://www.kfw.de/inlandsfoerderung/Privatpersonen/Studieren-Qualifizieren/Studium-finanzieren/?kfwmc=vt.sea.google.SEA_VT_Studienkredit_Allgemein_BK.{Anzeigengruppe}.{Anzeige}&wt_cc1=bildung&wt_cc2=pri|studieren-qualifizieren&wt_cc3=82025713368_kwd-311285257835_433623776525&wt_kw=b_82025713368_%2Bkfw%20%2Bkredit%20%2Bstudium)

**Emergency aid of the Students' Union (Studentenwerk) Dresden**

Should you find yourself in a temporary emergency situation during your studies for which you are not responsible, the social counselling service of the Student's Union Dresden will try to help you.

LINK: <https://www.studentenwerk-dresden.de/soziales/notlagen.html>

**Coronavirus emergency aid for students as a loan from the Hildegardis Association**

Students in financial hardship can apply for a Coronavirus Instant Help Loan from the Hildegardis Association. The prerequisite is membership in a Christian denomination.

LINK: <https://www.hildegardis-verein.de/corona-soforthilfe.html>

**Guide to Coronavirus Help of the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (BMAS)**

The Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs provides a schematic overview that provides orientation on the assistance available during the coronavirus crisis. The guide also provides links to the institutions which provide this assistance.

LINK: [https://www.bmas.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/PDF-Infografiken/lotse-corona-hilfen.pdf?\\_\\_blob=publicationFile](https://www.bmas.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/PDF-Infografiken/lotse-corona-hilfen.pdf?__blob=publicationFile)

#### **4. Category: Children**

**(14) How do I manage studying at home and caring for my child(ren) at the same time?**

Reconciling study, work and childcare is sometimes a difficult balancing act to achieve. The following are just a few ideas on how this can be done a little better.

Tip #1: Planning, planning, planning

Plan an agenda for each day, plan it thoroughly and record the individual stages in a timetable. Involve older children in the planning and place the timetable where everyone can see it. A notice board in the kitchen, for example, would be a good idea.

Tip #2: Define both shared and separate periods

Split the time available into periods that you spend together and periods that your children spend independently. In addition to breakfast, lunch, and dinner together, plan activities that involve physical activity, such as a walk.

Tip #3: Use the morning and the evening

Use the time early in the morning and later in the evening, when your children are sleeping, for concentrated work.

Tip #4: Starting the working day together

Create a fixed ritual with which you start your first learning or work phase together in the morning. It will help you to switch to another mode without changing location.

Tip #5: Create a defined workspace

If possible, set up a separate area where you can work undisturbed. A spatial separation from the areas where your children work alone is usually very helpful.

Tip #6: Split childcare

Are both parents at home? Then take turns interacting with your children. A room arrangement often helps: Both parents work in different rooms, for example in the living room and the study. The person who works in the living room can be contacted by the children. The one in the study remains undisturbed. Over the day, you simply change rooms to take turns.

LINK: <https://www.stw-edu.de/kinderbetreuung/coronavirus-tipps-fuer-eltern/>

### **(15) How can children learn at home and how can media be sensibly implemented in this context?**

The Saxon State Ministry for Higher Education, Research and the Arts compiled the most important questions and answers for learning at home.

LINK: <https://www.bildung.sachsen.de/blog/index.php/2020/03/30/lernen-zu-hause-die-wichtigsten-fragen-und-antworten-im-ueberblick/>

### **(16) How do I explain the coronavirus to my child?**

Even if your child is too young to understand the situation, you cannot shield them from the omnipresent topic. Help your child to get used to the current situation by providing clear and age-appropriate information.

LINK: <https://jugendinfoservice.dresden.de/de/elternweb/faq-familien-corona.php>

### **(17) Where can I get ideas to occupy my children?**

The schools and daycare centers are mostly still closed, the playgrounds are not accessible and meet-ups with other children outside their homes are restricted. In order to make everyday life with children playful and varied, a lot of creativity is needed. You will find a selection of activity suggestions here:

LINK: <https://jugendinfoservice.dresden.de/de/elternweb/faq-familien-corona.php>

At the moment, school children and children in daycare are spending the whole day at home. In order to bring movement into your own four walls, ALBA BERLIN's new online program "ALBA's

daily sports lesson" offers two digital school lessons (day-care and school) every day for all children and young people - to watch and participate in.

LINK: <https://www.albaberlin.de/news/details/reaktion-auf-coronavirus-albas-taegliche-digitale-sportstunde-fuer-kinder-und-jugendliche/>

## **5. Category: Counselling and service institutions**

### **(18) How do I reach the counselling and service institutions of TU Dresden?**

Answer: cf. the FAQ regarding the accessibility of the counselling and service institutions

LINK: <https://tu-dresden.de/studium/im-studium/coronavirus#section-2-9>

### **(19) What counselling and service offers does the Students' Union (*Studentenwerk*) provide?**

Answer: cf. the FAQ regarding the accessibility of the counselling and service institutions

LINK: <https://tu-dresden.de/studium/im-studium/coronavirus#section-2-9>

### **(20) What counselling offers does the Dresden Youth Welfare Office provide?**

The coronavirus situation is a challenge for all walks of life, especially for families, children and young people. If contact with peers and friends is lacking, if the family structure is under great pressure due to the problems providing care, and because movement restrictions to protect against infection, tension and conflict can arise. In order to be able to provide advice and support, the Youth Welfare Office has set up a counselling hotline.

LINK: <https://jugendinfoservice.dresden.de/de/elternweb/faq-familien-corona.php>

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