

Rector's message as of 8th January 2021

**Dear Students,
Dear Lecturers and Examiners,
Dear Colleagues in Examination Management,**

Unfortunately, the development of the COVID-19 pandemic in Germany, Saxony, and particularly in Dresden does not allow us to relax the precautions and regulations for the containment of infection. In order for all parties involved to be able to plan reliably, the University Executive Board has made a regulation concerning the examinations due to take place in the 2020/2021 winter semester. In addition, it is our hope to avoid the short-term cancellations of examinations that are currently scheduled, as this would lead to the postponement of subsequent semesters.

This decision was preceded by discussions with representatives of all the groups involved. The aim - as has been the case since the beginning of the pandemic - is to avoid delaying the course of studies and to minimize disadvantages for students and lecturers as far as is possible under the given conditions. Beyond this, it is TU Dresden's goal to contribute to the containment of infection within our community as a whole. **With this in mind, it is of the utmost importance that, as a rule, examinations are conducted digitally during the 2020/21 winter semester.**

Many examiners at TU Dresden have already had a positive experience with the switch to and implementation of digital examinations in the 2020 summer semester. The Center for Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching (ZiLL) supports examiners in the technical and content-related preparation as well as the implementation of examinations, while also ensuring the technical capacities, in cooperation with the ZIH.

We, therefore, once again urge all examiners, as we did most recently in the Senate meeting in December, to convert their examinations, which were previously planned to be conducted in person, into digital formats or to switch to alternative examination methods. **Please carefully check whether an on-site examination is indispensable for achieving the examination objective**, or whether the examinees' competences can be assessed in a different way. Digital examinations, as well as the switch to an alternative examination format, have been endorsed by the [Regulations](#) of the Vice-Rector Academic Affairs and the [Principle Resolutions of the Senate](#). Moreover, the examination period for the 2020/2021 winter semester will be extended; **examinations are therefore possible until April 9, 2021.**

Please notify the respective examination board and the students your digital examinations or all alternative examination formats to be concerned by **January 15, 2021.**

Alternative examination formats include 'take home exams', exams with assistance materials, multiple choice exams (due to the pandemic also possible without the Multiple-Choice Regulations), or splitting graded pieces of work into several smaller parts. All formats have been evaluated positively by examiners and students last semester.

ZiLL offers consultations, instructions and additional training to support you in substantively and technically transferring an on-site examination into a digital format. If needed, the ZiLL team can transfer the exam questions into an ONXY exam for you. Alternatively, ZiLL staff will provide individual assistance in the production of a digital exam. [Here](#), you can find detailed information and resources in various forms for digital exams.

To the **students of TU Dresden**, we are safe to assume that you also support the successful implementation of digital exams, among other things by adhering to the [guidelines for good scientific practice](#) of TU Dresden. Every student is committed to these guidelines as agreed during their enrolment.

If it is unavoidable to conduct an examination on-site, you, the examiner is obliged to:

1. Register the on-site examination in due time by January 15,
2. To create a corresponding [hygiene concept](#),
3. Ensure that the hygiene concept is implemented during the examination,
4. If necessary, to provide (via the faculties) the appropriate protective equipment if the minimum safe distance of 1.5 m cannot be maintained, and
5. If you later become aware of cases of infection, to report them immediately and thus facilitate a follow-up.

We would also like to point out that it is to be expected that the number of repeat examinations will increase if, should – in the event of an infection - groups of students be unable to take part in further on-site examinations due to the necessary quarantine and then have to make up for these in timely manner. This could also be circumvented through digital or alternative forms of examination.

We would like to thank you all for your proactive assistance in the past year and in the year to come. We hope that we will continue to master these challenges together.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Ursula M. Staudinger

Rector of TU Dresden

Prof Dr Gerald Gerlach

Vice-Rector Academic Affairs

* For staff of the University Hospital and the Faculty of Medicine in [facilities on the campus of the University Medical Center Dresden](#) the regulations of the Crisis Management Team of the University Hospital take precedence.