

via email on 30 March 2020

Dear students,

The current situation is not easy for you as a student nor for our professors and lecturers. Due to the postponement of in-person courses, five weeks of the summer semester lecture period are currently missing. An adjusted schedule has been drawn up and will be published shortly after final agreement with the Faculties and student representatives, unless new developments supersede it.

However, it is not foreseeable whether we will really be able to start lectures on April 20 in our classrooms and lecture halls. We must prepare ourselves for the case that this date may be postponed further or, in the extreme case, that no classroom teaching will be possible in the summer semester. Discussions are currently taking place between the federal states and the federal government on the further organization of the summer semester. The aim is to put an end to the current uncertainty for all of us and to give both students and lecturers planning security.

The Bavarian science ministry's statement, which Bavarian universities willingly pursue, specified that the summer semester 2020 should by no means be a "non-semester" for you. If possible, you should not lose a complete half year in your education. The Technische Hochschule Nürnberg aims to provide you prospects and to minimize detriments for any and all individuals.

Therefore, we have the goal of maintaining our educational operations as far as possible in the form of online teaching due the current circumstances. The focus is on providing you the opportunity to acquire as much competence as possible. Myriad faculty and adjunct faculty are working intensively on the creation and use of digital teaching formats, the range of courses on offer is constantly growing, while our IT Center is working on adapting our infrastructure to the growing demand.

Please understand that the technological extension and support cannot always keep pace with the increasing demands. Also, not all teachers are able to completely convert their courses that were planned as in-person lectures to online teaching within such a very short time. But a great many professors, staff members, tutors, and lecturers of the TH Nürnberg are currently working hard to improve this situation from one day to the next.

Therefore my request to you: take advantage of the online materials and courses offered by your Faculty. Examination-relevant material can already be made available online for you. Should you currently not be able to study online to the full extent, for example due to work commitments, taking care of children or relatives, because you are ill yourself, or because the technical possibilities are insufficient, we will of course take this into consideration. Digitally prepared exam-relevant material will be accessible to you until the exam date, and instructors are available to assist you. Deadlines have already been adjusted to the changed semester schedule by the university's Examination Committee.

This summer semester 2020 will be different than all previous ones. What is needed is creativity, commitment, imagination, and a willingness to improvise, both among students and instructors.

Please inform yourself regularly about the digital courses offered by your Faculty and your instructors. Take the opportunity to continue your studies as best as circumstances and your personal situation allow.

The situation is currently unclear, there are many detailed questions and uncertainties. If you have questions, please contact the relevant members or administrators of your Faculty, the Student Counseling Service or the Student Office, and of course, the student representatives in the Faculty Student Representation (the Fachschaften), the Student Parliament, and in the AStA (the General Student Committee).

We will keep you up to date on current developments. We wish you all the best and great success!

Kindest regards,

Niels Oberbeck

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