

GUIDELINES FOR WINTER SEMESTER 2020/21 ACADEMIC EVENTS

According to a survey by the administration, more than 20,000 academic events are conducted at the University of Göttingen each semester. The majority of these activities are courses, followed by committee meetings and other academic as well as cultural and social events.

The 2020 summer semester was predominantly conducted digitally. This was in keeping with the general risk assessment of COVID-19 and according to the federal, state and municipal regulations. The University managed the online and reduced-presence operations by means of a catalogue of measures (Regulations and Measures for Protection against Infection), currently version 2.2 from July 29 2020. In its most recently published version, the catalogue of measures consolidates the relevant ordinances of the Lower Saxony government to combat the infection, as well as the specifications of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs on occupational health and safety.

The 2020/21 winter semester should allow increased attendance in person. Accompanying measures such as mass screenings at the University are also being planned. The Presidential Board and the crisis management team (Krisenstab) reserve the right to make changes to the regulations at short notice.

In addition, for the 2020/21 winter semester, the number of face-to-face events must be limited in order to keep the overall risk of non-traceable COVID-19 infections manageable. This will involve evaluating each event for its attendance requirements. This evaluation is to be carried out decentrally, that is, by the respective faculty and institutions and, where possible, with the input of the students in order to be able to take into consideration programme-specific requirements. This will allow faculties and institutions a certain degree of flexibility.

The following University-wide regulations are intended to provide the faculties and institutions with suitable guidelines. The "Key points for 2020/21 winter semester at the University of Göttingen" apply to all academic events involving studying and teaching including examinations and was approved by the Senate on 10 August 2020 (see also points 2 and 3 below).

The most recent version of the regulations in the "catalogue of measures" applies to all courses. In particular, the AHA rules ("*Abstand, Hygiene, Alltagsmasken*" or *distancing, hygiene, everyday masks*) are to be observed. The commitment to comply with the distancing rules governs the availability of the rooms and the maximum number of people they can hold. Therefore, large events (such as the larger lectures) will only be held digitally during the winter semester. Furthermore, adequate ventilation must be provided to reduce aerosols and lists of participants must be kept in the proper form (**more detailed information to follow**). External participants should be informed in advance in a suitable way about the infection prevention measures at the University.



1. At this point in time, it is planned that on average up to 30% of the courses of a faculty or institution can be conducted in person. This percentage serves as a guideline and need not be fully met. Students should be actively involved in the selection process where possible. 'Courses' include all formats listed under "Teaching, studying and examinations" in the catalogue of measures. The results of the currently on-going survey on the prioritisation of face-to-face courses (sent by Vice President Bührmann to the deans of studies on 6 August) will be sent to the crisis management team. This will provide a comprehensive picture across faculties, particularly with respect to the utilisation of centrally managed rooms. **The faculties are to send their selection of face-to-face courses held in rooms that aren't managed centrally, to the crisis management team via the coronavirus information mailbox (cv-info@uni-goettingen.de) by 11 September at the latest.**
2. Special consideration should be given to face-to-face events during the orientation and introductory phase in order to make it easier for first-year students, especially international students, to get started in their everyday life in Göttingen and to help them build up a circle of friends and a support network.
3. For the O-phase, digital formats as well as in-person formats can be scheduled (if possible, in small groups). Basic questions about the O-phase activities, including public events, were discussed with the city. Open questions regarding the set-up of the programme are to be clarified internally by the University and will be taken up by the crisis management team. Rooms will be reserved in the central lecture hall (ZHG) from 26 to 31 October 2020 for the use of face-to-face O-phase activities. If necessary, please contact central room administration.
4. Committee meetings, team meetings, lab meetings, quality management systems events (eg quality rounds), internal training events, etc, will be held digitally or in person at the sole discretion of the faculties and institutions. Wearing a face covering (face mask) is mandatory if the minimum distance cannot be maintained (see section 1.4 catalogue of measures).
5. In general, conferences, public lectures, panel discussions and receptions should not be held in person. Requests for exceptions are to be submitted to the crisis management team via the coronavirus information mailbox (cv-info@uni-goettingen.de) and should include an infection protection plan.
6. Reviews can be held in person. As a rule, the number of participants should not exceed 50.
7. Training courses for external personnel should only be held in person in exceptional cases. The number of participants should not exceed 30. Requests for exceptions are to be submitted to the crisis management team including an infection protection plan via the coronavirus information email (cv-info@uni-goettingen.de).
8. Sizeable cultural and social events (including team outings) should only take place in outdoor spaces and are to follow all restrictions as per regional government regulations.
9. Choir rehearsals and performances are only permitted outdoors; the regulations of the state government ordinance (VO) are to be observed. Chamber music rehearsals in closed rooms are



possible when held in compliance with the hygiene protection rules of the catalogue of measures. Concerts require the approval of the crisis management team.

10. Theatre rehearsals and performances (without singing) are possible when held in compliance with the regulations of the state government ordinance (VO) and the hygiene protection rules in the catalogue of measures.

-- This is an English translation of a German document ratified # by the Presidential Board on 26 August 2020