

Göttingen, 16. April 2020

Dear students,

Next Monday an unusual semester begins for all of us: We are forced to keep distance until further notice. For the time being, this means that we will no longer be able to attend classroom lectures and seminars, which are an essential element of our academic teaching philosophy and where we can communicate directly. However, we all have to work together to make the best of this situation.

For us, this means that, as at all universities in Germany, we will try to establish digital courses to enable you to continue your studies in the up-coming summer semester 2020. Our computer centre, the GWDG, provides excellent support for lecturers in preparing digital formats. Nevertheless, we cannot offer the full range of courses in this "corona semester" (this concerns for example elective modules and excursions). We may also have to cancel practical exercises in the forest for the time being. Where possible, we will try to replace them with instructional videos. However, we trust that you will use the resulting free time in a positive way for your personal studies. Unfortunately, it is not clear at the moment whether and when the generally applicable federal and state regulations will allow classroom instruction again. Should this be the case, we will react promptly, especially with regard to exercises and excursions that have been suspended until further notice.

For you, the situation, which is new for all of us, means that you accept the new conditions proactively; in other words: it means the willingness to study more independently, to intensify independent preparation and to recognize an increased level of personal responsibility. We are aware that this will require a high degree of discipline and self-organisation. In this context, please keep an eye on communication and (electronic) group work with your fellow students! Since we did not have much time to adapt to the new situation with regard to the courses offered, not everything will go according to plan. We therefore ask for your patience, especially at the beginning of the courses. In the end, however, we all have the chance to try out new forms of online learning together. I am sure that this will have a positive effect on future university teaching, but it will also be an important experience for your later professional life.

I am convinced that we will master the challenge posed by the Corona pandemic in a joint feat. If you have any suggestions or constructive criticism regarding our implementation of digital teaching, please contact lecturers directly. Please also use your elected representatives in the faculty committees for feedback. Be assured that we are aware of the special situation and will support an orderly process by the faculty board, making full use of all available staff and time resources.

We wish you all the best for this memorable "Corona semester", good success and warm regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christian Ammer".

Christian Ammer, Dean,
on behalf of all lecturers of your Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology

PS. Please also note the university-wide information on the corona virus for students:
<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/622779.html> and the information provided by the computer centre GWDG: <https://info.gwdg.de/docs/doku.php?id=en:current:covid-19>