



KEY POINTS FOR THE WINTER SEMESTER 2020/21 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN

For the winter semester 2020/21, the University of Göttingen will increasingly offer face-to-face courses, as far as possible. Due to the current situation, however, the majority of courses will again have to be held predominantly in digital form (a “hybrid semester”).

- Lectures for the winter semester 2020/21 will begin on 2 November 2020 and end on 12 February 2021.
- The orientation phase will run from 26 to 31 October 2020.
- The matriculation ceremony (in a digital format with partial attendance planned) will take place on 2 November 2020.
- The coming winter semester will once again place high demands on the timely and transparent provision of information to both applicants and students – especially first-year students – for whom intensive and coordinated communication in the run-up to and during the semester must be ensured by the faculties and the central administration.

To organise lectures for the coming winter semester 2020/21, it can be assumed, based on the current situation that precautions must continue to be taken to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection. However, the extent of possible restrictions can only be foreseen in the short-term. Depending on the development of the pandemic, the situation may change at any time, possibly even seriously.

- As far as possible, more face-to-face courses are to be offered in the coming winter semester – always with the proviso that this must not encourage the spread of the virus.
- As things stand at present, however, again it will not be possible to avoid offering courses mainly in a digital format for the winter semester 2020/21 at the University of Göttingen.
- The proportion of digital, hybrid and face-to-face courses will depend on the particular conditions of the individual faculties and programmes.
- Due to the current rules and regulations on infection control, only a limited number of face-to-face courses can be planned for the coming winter semester, and only with a limited number of participants – depending on the particular conditions of the space. The collection of personal data necessary for tracing possible chains of infection has to be ensured for all courses delivered in person.
- Special attention should be paid to face-to-face events during the orientation and introductory phase of studies in order to make it easier for first-year students, especially international students, to enter the everyday life of studying in Göttingen and to help them build up a circle of friends and a support network.
- For the O-Phase, digital formats as well as face-to-face formats (if possible in small groups) can be scheduled. To organise events taking place in person in the O-Phase, rooms in the Central Lecture Hall (ZHG) will be reserved from 26 to 31 October 2020.



- In all cases, it is essential that the faculties inform the students as early and transparently as possible about the particular plans.
- The following framework was agreed at the suggestion of the virtual AG for Studies and Academic Services for dealing with digital and hybrid forms of events in the winter semester 2020/21:
 - there is no obligation to switch courses which have been planned to take place online to a face-to-face format during the current semester if the risk situation changes;
 - there is no obligation to convert hybrid planned courses to full attendance in the current semester if the risk situation changes;
 - it is possible to switch online or hybrid planned courses to face-to-face formats at short notice during the current semester if the risk situation changes, whilst taking into account the organisational constraints. However, advance reservations of centrally administered rooms in case of a possible switch to a face-to-face format at a later date are not permitted.