

University of Passau · 94030 Passau · Germany

To all members
of the University of Passau

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Circular letter

Dear Students and Members of the University,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The latest developments continue to demand from us the most careful coordination, mutual consideration and mindfulness for each other and for ourselves. How can we minimise the risk to others and ourselves? That is the question guiding our thoughts and actions, as we seek to jointly shape our campus life.

Our actions are based on federal and state laws and regulations as well as the specific conditions at our university. The compulsory 3G rule [NB: vaccinated, recovered from covid-19 or tested negative] sets the framework for this.

With the hospitalisation traffic lights currently showing red, the following rules are imposed as of today:

A) 3G checks

We have an absolute obligation to completely ensure everyone's compliance with the 3G rule. To this end:

- the security service has increased its spot checks and is checking everyone on campus, including staff members.
- executive staff are encouraged to monitor their staff members' compliance with the 3G rule within their areas of responsibility. They are authorised to demand and inspect proof of compliance with the 3G rule.
- lecturers are required to make it clear in their courses that compliance with the 3G rule is a prerequisite for attendance. They, too, are entitled to demand and inspect 3G proof.
- As the supervisor of the professoriate, I am responsible for monitoring professors' 3G compliance. I hereby oblige all professors to regularly obtain and their personal 3G certificates and keep them safe. These must be presented when I ask for them.

B) Mask-wearing obligation

In view of the latest developments in the pandemic, the University of Passau is imposing an FFP2 mask-wearing obligation in all buildings and closed rooms with immediate effect. In addition, it is strongly recommended that the FFP2 masks are always worn, even if a

distance of 1.5 metres can be maintained. This applies to all courses (although teaching staff are exempt from this during class) and throughout the University Library.

C) Testing

Everyone who has not been vaccinated is required to get tested regularly on at least two different weekdays. However, since those who are recovering from covid-19 or who have been vaccinated can still spread the virus, I ask that all members of the University routinely test themselves or have themselves tested.

- Please make regular use of the public testing facilities close to your home before coming to the campus.
- Please use the self-test kits provided. Staff members can obtain them from the usual central offices.
- Students, please use the test centre on campus. We are working on ensuring test facilities are available for the rest of the semester.

D) Virtual teaching during the Christmas period

The Christmas and New Year break lies ahead. The University of Passau is well-equipped to conduct in-person teaching in relative safety: we have a tried-and-tested safety and hygiene concept (masks, ventilation, spacing), technologically well-equipped rooms (air-conditioning; CO₂ traffic lights) and a high vaccination rate among students. But there are good reasons to place a buffer period of virtual teaching around the Christmas break this year:

- Many students will want to have the option of a voluntary two-week quarantine before visiting parents and grandparents over the festive season.
- Christmas travel is naturally associated with crowded roads and public transport, resulting in a higher infection risk.

Therefore, we have decided for our University:

- All lecturers are asked to completely replace face-to-face teaching with online teaching for the period from 13 December 2021 to 17 January 2022.
- During this online phase, all members of the University are asked to conduct other events, celebrations and meetings only in virtual form. Please assume that most of our students will not be here in Passau during this time.
- For courses that cannot be conducted online, please talk to your students to find a solution and inform Vice President for Teaching Professor Bettina Noltenius and your faculty administration (Dean's Office).
- Recreational sports facilities and the University Library will remain open and monitor compliance with the 3G rule.
- I ask administrative and academic support staff to work from home whenever possible. There will be no change to the University's planned Christmas holiday closure.

E) Agility

The time until 13 December will demand a strong focus and a great deal of agility from all of us. At this juncture, we are deliberately taking the decision to return to online teaching only temporarily; there are no intentions to go back to fully-online teaching. However, please take into account that opportunities to attend courses in person will likely be more limited than in normal times.

I thank you all for your perseverance, your courage and the enthusiasm with which you keep study, teaching and research at our University of Passau on track in these challenging times.

You have my greatest respect and heartfelt solidarity!



Professor Ulrich Bartosch
President of the University of Passau