

University President
Professor Ulrich Bartosch



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Dear students,

It is time for thanks, encouragement and confidence! I would like to ask for your attention for a moment.

Thanks

Our second semester in virtual mode is almost over. Everyone has helped tremendously and mastered technical, didactical, logistical, but above all interpersonal and social challenges. Admittedly, there is still a lot that needs to be improved in the summer semester and I am keenly aware that for many of you there are serious worries and hardships to overcome. Let me also take this opportunity to thank you for the letters that have reached me. In doing so, you allow me to share in your various experiences. The university, and I personally, try to organise help where we can.

However, let's not forget to recognise and show the enormous successes we have had. Through our joint efforts, we have steered the University of Passau through a difficult pandemic year without having to shut down our learning and research! Your discipline and patience have made this possible – together with the strong commitment and professionalism of our administration and, last but not least, the creativity and perseverance of our teaching staff. My greatest thanks and appreciation go out to all of you.

Encouragement

Now, as you go into your exams with your new knowledge and insights from the many seminars and lectures, be proud that you are achieving this milestone under such unusual circumstances. Please see yourselves as what you are: a generation of students who will not shrink back; you are pioneers! Nobody before you has done what you are doing.

Again, I am aware of your concerns regarding the conditions of exam preparation and conduct. Together we will be appropriately considerate of one another. Strict adherence to the hygiene rules will allow us to ensure you can maintain your planned course of studies – of which exams are an important part. Maybe you can give the organisers and invigilators a thank you and a smile; they are standing by your side in these times.

For your exams I wish you all a brave heart, a clear mind and good luck!

Confidence

What will happen next? When will it all get better? Will things be different in future? The proverbial silver lining is on the horizon, signalling the end of the storm. Yes, we all hope that this difficult time will soon pass. The good news is that there will be a time after Covid-19. But we still need to be patient until we get there. Nevertheless, you will play a major role in shaping this time of new departures – for the university and beyond. I am very much looking forward to it. Since I took office at this fine university, we have all experienced the university operating almost exclusively in 'emergency mode'. That is burdensome. I share with all of you a genuine longing for the real, free life. Nevertheless, we will organise the summer semester mainly in an online format. This means you will not have to be in Passau all the time. Only for the exams, attendance is necessary again in some cases. As soon as it is safe to do so, we want to revive our campus as a place of social gathering, to the best of our ability while operating in online mode. We will then celebrate together with you. Normality as longed-for state of happiness? That is another experience we will remember.

With my very best wishes,



Professor Ulrich Bartosch

President of the University of Passau