

Dear Students, Dear Lecturers, Dear Colleagues at hmt,

As announced last week, I am now able to provide you with more precise details for summer semester. Due to the persisting infection protection measures and the corresponding drastic effect on public life, this year's summer semester will be very different to what we are used to. This requires us all to show a high level of willingness and flexibility for adapting to the new situation, solving problems that arise (sometimes in unconventional manners) and making the most of this crisis situation to the best of our ability, and I would therefore like to ask for your understanding for the circumstances, and above all, for your help.

To make sure there are no misunderstandings, please take note of this essential and binding piece of information: **The university building is closed!** In the coming weeks, no students or members of teaching staff will be present on the University's premises. This shall apply until further notice.

### **State-Wide Arrangements for Summer Semester**

The following general arrangements for summer semester 2020 have been agreed to by the Minister of Education Bettina Martin and the Rectors of the tertiary education institutions:

1. Summer semester 2020 will take place.
2. The universities and the Rostock University of Music and Drama (hmt Rostock) will start lectures on 20 April 2020; the universities of applied sciences will continue their lectures from 20 April 2020.
3. Due to the epidemiological situation, lectures and studies will not take place with the presence of students, but rather in digital formats ('distance learning').
4. Examinations that are possible without direct forms of contact and can be organised individually by the tertiary education institutions can now take place as long as they are possible in digital form, can be held without the physical presence of the students and observe certain quality standards.
5. Teaching and examinations that require the presence of the students as well as practicals will start to take place gradually as soon as the health protection measures have been lifted. This will be discussed in advance with the authorities that are responsible for the protection of health.
6. All of the coursework and examinations completed in summer semester 2020 will be recognised.

The original press release [de] can be found here: <https://www.regierung-mv.de/Landesregierung/bm/Aktuell/?id=158963&processor=processor.sa.pressemitteilung>.

### **Consequences for Teaching, Practising, Examinations and Concerts at our University**

For our University, this means:

- **The university building remains closed for students and members of teaching staff!** Due to reasons of infection protection, **normal practice procedures cannot take place** at the moment!
- Only members of staff who work in the administration or facility management, stage technicians, and members of the Crisis Team are permitted entry to the building.

- **All of the University's public events that were scheduled until 12 July 2020 (the end of the original lecture period) are cancelled.**
- **No practical examinations for musicians and actors/actresses and no entrance examinations can take place until 12 July 2020.**
- We presume that, **from 1 September 2020 onwards, there will be an additional period spanning several weeks in which teaching that requires the presence of the students and practical examinations for musicians and actors/actresses will be possible** and during which cancelled courses and postponed examinations will be made up for. Please arrange to be present during this period.
- With regard to the examinations, we are committed to make sure that nobody will be disadvantaged due to the current situation (principle of equality). This means that, if necessary, the heads of departments will be generous when granting extension requests for certain subjects that are relevant for examinations.
- We will also consult the other music universities to agree a period for making up for the entrance examinations. **The application deadline on the online portal will be extended correspondingly.** The exact dates of the entrance examinations will be announced as soon as practical examinations for musicians and actors/actresses can be planned and realised in spite of the coronavirus pandemic.
- **All of the teaching contracts remain fully intact and will be paid in full.** The period for completing teaching responsibilities will be extended beyond the original lecture period, until the end of summer semester.
- All of the student assistant contracts remain fully intact and will be paid in full. The period for completing the work tasks will also be extended beyond the original lecture period, until the end of summer semester.

### **Information about Digital Forms of Teaching Starting on 20 April**

Dear Lecturers, please make use of all of the resources available to you for providing digital forms of teaching from 20 April onwards in those subjects for which you consider it to be feasible. If you have any questions, please contact the management of the respective department. As Prorector for Studies and Teaching, Prof. Gatz (<mailto:dagmar.gatz@hmt-rostock.de>) is also your contact person for all questions that arise in this exceptional situation in connection with teaching.

We are aware that the use of digital resources cannot replace the direct contact enabled by one-to-one music/acting tuition. If you – either lecturer or student – conclude that you are not getting/will not get anywhere with this kind of tuition, please rest assured that you will receive the tuition that you require after reinstatement of face-to-face teaching. We will look for individual solutions to this problem.

The Rectorate has already made successful use of the video conference software Zoom (HD video and audio). The basic version can be used for free. We are currently working on a more advanced solution for the whole University. The programme is suited (to a certain extent) for individual tuition and the teaching of small groups, but also for lectures and seminars.

Lecturers teaching seminars can also simply send the work materials and internet links, as well as specific exercises and instructions via email to the seminar participants. This is an option that can be more sensible than uploading materials to online platforms.

I would also like to draw your attention to the information sheet [de] on using online teaching sensibly for tertiary education that is available on our own website:

<https://www.hmt-rostock.de/online-selbststudium/>

The University of Rostock has also put together some information on online teaching on its website: <https://www.dienstleistungsportal.uni-rostock.de/corona-sonderinformationen/studium-und-digitale-lehre/online-lehre/>

### **Information on Registering for Lectures and Seminars**

Dear Students, if you would like to take a certain lecture or seminar, please write an email directly to the respective lecturer named in the course timetable by 15 April (this can be found here: <https://www.hmt-rostock.de/studium/studienorganisation/>). The lecturers will then get in touch with you to let you know whether and in which form the lecture or the seminar will take place.

### **Information on the Online Courses for the Coming Weeks**

As we mentioned in the last circular, the list of general learning materials to tide us over the coming weeks up until 20 April is now accessible at <https://www.hmt-rostock.de/online-selbststudium/>. Here you will find a broad range of materials for you to browse and use for learning, including internet links to interesting online learning platforms, music that is worth listening to, videos of concerts and acting performances that are worth seeing and texts that are worth reading. Many thanks to all the members of teaching staff who have contributed and to Angelika Thönes for putting the information together and presenting it on the website.

Dear Members of the University Community,

The situation that we are currently experiencing is unsettling in many different respects. We are all thinking and worrying about how things will develop. In addition to studies or work, the whole daily routine is having to be rearranged. This all takes time and effort and requires more and more patience and perseverance. Take care of yourselves at this time and above all, stay well.

Best regards in the name of the entire extended Rectorate,  
Oliver Krämer