

These regulations have been worded carefully to be up to date; however, errors cannot be completely excluded. The official German text is the version that is legally binding.

**Regulations of Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg
(FAU) concerning Deviations from Degree Programme and
Examination Regulations and the Doctoral Degree and
Habilitation Regulations due to Restrictions to Teaching and
Examinations imposed as a result of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2
– Coronavirus Regulations –
Dated 17 April 2020**

amended by statutes of
4 June 2020
4 August 2020

Based on Section 13 (1)(2) in conjunction with Section 58 (1) and Section 61 (2)(1) of the Bavarian Higher Education Act (BayHSchG), FAU enacts the following regulations:

Preamble

These regulations aim to ensure that studying and teaching in all degree programmes within the meaning of Section 56 (1) **BayHSchG** and other studies within the meaning of Section 56 (6) **BayHSchG** and in doctoral degree and habilitation procedures at FAU can continue as far as possible in spite of the restrictions to public life imposed in response to the coronavirus, to allow all students from all degree programmes and other programmes to (continue to) study with as little disruption as possible and to ensure the continued qualification of young researchers.

Section 1 Scope

¹These regulations shall apply to all degree programmes within the meaning of Section 56 (1) **BayHSchG** and other studies within the meaning of Section 56 (6) **BayHSchG** and in doctoral and habilitation procedures at FAU. ²Notwithstanding sentence 1, the regulations shall not apply to teaching placements incorporated in a teaching degree programme ('Lehramtsstudiengang') pursuant to Section 34 **LPO I**. ³Notwithstanding sentence 1, the currently valid version of the regulations stipulated in the Bavarian Regulation on Infection Prevention and Control Measures shall apply to practical exercises in degree programmes for professions in the fields of medicine and dentistry. ⁴In addition, the infection prevention measures announced by the Bavarian state government as well as the guidelines for the implementation of the Bavarian Regulation on Infection Prevention and Control Measures at the Bavarian universities in the currently valid version must be observed.

**Section 2 Deviations from provisions stipulated in degree programme and
examination regulations related to teaching and examination formats**

(1) Provided it can be proven that classes and examinations cannot be held in the manner stipulated in the relevant degree programme and examination regulations or module handbook due to the restrictions imposed on public life or other implications of the coronavirus, deviations can be made for the semester affected by the restrictions

from the provisions stipulated in the relevant degree programme and examination regulations or module handbook governing teaching or examinations provided the following prerequisites are met:

1. It can be proven that the class or the examination cannot be held in the originally planned format due to the coronavirus and
2. The Dean of Studies is of the opinion that the alternative formats now planned for teaching and/or examinations are just as well suited for ensuring the student's successful completion of the degree programme or other studies (skills-based teaching and examination).

(2) Paragraph 1 shall apply accordingly to the provisions stipulated in the relevant degree programme and examination regulations concerning the degree programme structure, i.e. the possibility of rescheduling individual modules and classes into earlier or later semesters, if

1. it can be proven that the student cannot complete their studies in the order originally planned due to the requirement to attend classes on campus (e.g. laboratory classes) that can now not be met as a direct result of the coronavirus and
2. the Dean of Studies is of the opinion that the alternative degree programme structure is just as well suited for ensuring the student's successful completion of the degree programme or other studies (tiered skills).

(3) ¹Applications pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 2 should as far as possible be collected by the degree programme coordinator and sent in a batch to the Dean of Studies responsible. ²The Dean of Studies responsible shall decide on any deviations from paragraph 1 or 2 after consulting the chairperson of the relevant Examinations Committee in each individual instance. ³The changes shall be announced at the latest four weeks after lectures begin in the module handbook or for non-modular degree programmes in another suitable way. ⁴In the event of changes pursuant to paragraph 1, up to two additional alternatives may also be stipulated in the module handbook or for non-modular degree programmes in another suitable way at the time stated in sentence 3. Students shall be informed which of the alternatives has been chosen at least four weeks before the examination. ⁵After the time stated in sentence 3, the Dean of Studies responsible can allow deviations according to paragraph 1 or 2 in particularly justified exceptional cases, provided skills-based teaching and examination is not jeopardised in any way.

Section 3 Deviation from provisions in doctoral degree and habilitation regulations

(1) ¹Section 2 (1) shall apply accordingly to doctoral procedures. ²In consultation with the respective bodies responsible for doctoral degrees, the relevant Dean shall enact provisions relating to the respective doctoral degree regulations which shall be announced in a suitable manner at least two weeks before each of the examinations. ³Doctoral candidates shall no longer be required to submit the application for initiation of the doctoral procedure in person pursuant to Section 9 (2)(1) **RPromO**. The application shall initially be submitted electronically, and the original shall be submitted at a later date.

(2) ¹Section 2 (1) shall apply accordingly. ²Decisions shall be taken by the Dean responsible and shall be announced at least two weeks before the specific examination.

Section 4 Deviations in teaching and examination formats; block seminars, examination periods, exceptions

(1) ¹Provided the provisions in Section 2 and the principle of skills-based teaching and examination are observed, the teaching and examination formats stipulated in the degree programme and examination regulations, the doctoral degree or habilitation regulations or the module handbook can be replaced by any other teaching or examination formats stipulated in the respective degree programme and examination regulations or doctoral degree or habilitation regulations for other modules or other achievements. ²Sentence 1 shall apply accordingly for other teaching or examination formats not stipulated in the relevant degree programme and examination regulations or doctoral degree and habilitation regulations, in particular with respect to using electronic/digital methods, provided comparable conditions can be guaranteed for all students, especially in the case of remote digital examinations (in particular unique identification of examinees, suitable precautions against attempted fraud, dealing with technical disruptions, saving and documenting the examination) and provided data protection regulations are observed (in particular including the type of server used). The provisions stipulated in Section 61 (10) **BayHSchG** and the regulation passed as a result must be observed. ³Notwithstanding the above, remote digital examinations are allowed if they are offered and accepted as a voluntary alternative to face-to-face examinations held on the same date and providing the regulations stipulated in sentence 2 item 1 are observed.

Please note:

As stated in the letter from the Bavarian State Ministry of Science and the Arts dated 8 June 2020 (H112.0/10/5), legal concerns raised by the Bavarian Data Protection Officer mean that remote online examinations (written and oral) are not permitted or may only be offered as an optional alternative.

(2) ¹If classes were planned during the semester and the option of changing these to block seminars at the end of the semester is not compatible with the provisions concerning the degree programme structure stipulated in the degree programme and examination regulations, these can be changed to block seminars in compliance with the provisions in Section 2 (2) and (3), provided they can still be studied in this format. ²In cases such as these, the decision to change classes into block seminars is based on an assessment made by the Dean of Studies concerning the feasibility of being able to hold classes on campus at the planned date on the basis of the measures announced by the Bavarian state government at the time the decision is taken.

(3) ¹Faculties can deviate from any examination periods stipulated in the degree programme and examination regulations in consultation with the Examinations Office. ²The specific examination dates shall be announced at least four weeks before the respective examination.

(4) ¹Provided it can be demonstrated that students cannot travel in the stipulated examination period on account of the coronavirus pandemic and therefore cannot attend the examinations, the examiner can set an alternative examination date for these students in consultation with the Examinations Committee responsible and the Dean of Studies. ²Sentence 1 shall apply accordingly for a change in examination form, provided the alternative examination is essentially just as well suited to allow students to successfully complete the degree programme or other courses of study (skills-oriented teaching and examining); (1)(3) shall not be affected.

Section 5 Study deadlines and deadlines for meeting requirements; withdrawal and failure to attend; validity of examination results

(1) ¹In the context of the standard dates and deadlines stipulated in the examination regulations for degree programmes at FAU and of individual standard durations of study for students enrolled at FAU during the coronavirus pandemic, the provisions stipulated in **BayHSchG** for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic shall apply; students cannot have recourse to repeated preferential treatment. ²Sentence 1 shall apply accordingly with respect to extending deadlines for meeting requirements stipulated in accordance with gaining admission to Master's degree programmes.

(2) For all examinations (with the exclusion of final theses, and examinations which are part of the university part of the State Examination in Law, refer to item 3 below) that are being held in winter semester 2020/2021 (all examinations officially scheduled for winter semester 2020/2021), regulations affecting withdrawal and failure to attend have been relaxed in all degree programmes:

1. ¹Students can withdraw from an examination by not attending. ²A failure to attend will generally be counted as excused. ³Students are no longer required to submit a doctor's certificate ('Attest' in German) if they fail to attend university examinations which they have registered for. ⁴They will be considered to have been excused from the examination even without submitting a doctor's certificate ('vertrauensärztliches Attest' in German). ⁵The failure to attend will not be recorded as a failed attempt.
2. ¹In the event of withdrawal or failure to attend, registration to the examination will be cancelled. ²In the event of withdrawal or failure to attend a resit examination, registration to the examination will be cancelled.
3. ¹For Bachelor's and Master's theses, and examinations which belong to the university part of the State Examination in Law, the degree programme and examination regulations will apply. ²Extensions for final theses have been or will be granted insofar as deemed necessary; further deviations from the degree programme and examination regulations may be granted upon application to the Examinations Committee.

(3) ¹The result of any examination taken will count. ²Sitting the examination again as an attempt to improve grades is not permitted.

(4) In consideration of these relaxed regulations, it is strongly recommended that students take examinations when they are offered to avoid further delays to their academic progress and any disadvantages that may be incurred by their own decision to postpone examinations to a later date (paragraph 1, sentence 3).

(5) ¹Paragraphs 1 to 4 do not apply to doctoral or habilitation procedures. ²For degree programmes which are completed with a State Examination, paragraphs 1 to 4 will apply if the provisions do not conflict with the State Examination regulations. ³Paragraphs 1 to 4 shall apply to degree programmes in accordance with the Admissions Regulations at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg for subject-specific university admission for qualified professionals and graduates of the Meisterprüfung and persons treated as such (Hochschulzugangssatzung) of 9 December 2009 in the version applicable at the time.

Section 6 Legal Validity

(1) ¹These regulations come into effect on the day after their publication. ²The regulations and the teaching and/or examination formats changed on the basis of these regulations shall only apply to examinations which had to be postponed in the winter semester 2019/2020 due to restrictions caused by the coronavirus and teaching and/or examination formats and examination dates assigned to summer semester 2020 or which are held in summer semester 2020 as part of a doctoral or habilitation procedure. ³Notwithstanding sentence 2, changes made pursuant to Section 2 (2) concerning the postponement of individual modules in the degree programme structure shall apply to the entire duration of the affected student's studies. ⁴An amendment statute may be passed extending the period of validity of these regulations and the changes made depending on the duration of the restrictions taken as a result of the coronavirus.

(2) The first amendment statute shall come into effect on the day after its publication.

(3) ¹The second amendment statute shall come into effect on 1 October 2020. ²Notwithstanding sentence 1, the amendments in Section 4 shall come into effect on the day after their publication. ³According to (1)(4), the period of validity of the Coronavirus Regulations shall be extended until the end of winter semester 2020/2021.