

These regulations have been worded carefully to be up to date; however, errors cannot be completely excluded. The official German text available from L1 – Office of Legal Affairs and Academic Quality Management 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  
2 December 2020  
15 February 2021  
25 February 2021  
6 August 2021

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**

<sup>1</sup>These 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; they shall only apply to State Examination programmes to the extent that is legally permissible. <sup>2</sup>Notwithstanding sentence 1, the regulations shall not apply to teaching placements incorporated in a teaching degree programme ('Lehramtsstudiengang') pursuant to Section 34 **LPO I**. <sup>3</sup>Notwithstanding 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. <sup>4</sup>In 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 description 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 description 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 as a direct result of 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) <sup>1</sup>Applications 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. <sup>2</sup>The 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. <sup>3</sup>The changes shall be announced at the latest four weeks after lectures begin in the module description or for non-modular degree programmes in another suitable way. <sup>4</sup>In the event of changes pursuant to paragraph 1, up to two additional alternatives may also be stipulated in the module description 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. <sup>5</sup>After 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) <sup>1</sup>Section 2 (1) shall apply accordingly to doctoral procedures. <sup>2</sup>In 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. <sup>3</sup>Doctoral 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) <sup>1</sup>Section 2 (1) shall apply accordingly to habilitation procedures. <sup>2</sup>Decisions 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) <sup>1</sup>Provided 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. <sup>2</sup>Sentence 1 shall also apply to other teaching and examination formats that are not stipulated in the degree programme and examination regulations, doctoral degree or habilitation regulations, in particular with respect to using electronic/digital methods; the FAU regulations on remote examinations on the basis of the Bavarian regulation for testing remote examinations (BayFEV) – **EFernPO** – must be observed.

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

(4) <sup>1</sup>Provided 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. <sup>2</sup>Sentence 1 shall apply accordingly for a change in examination format, 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).

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

(1) <sup>1</sup>In the context of the standard dates and deadlines stipulated in the examination regulations for degree programmes at FAU and of individual extensions to the standard duration 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 provided that winter semester 2021/2022 is also included in these provisions. <sup>2</sup>Sentence 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 university 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 2021/2022 (all examinations officially scheduled for winter semester 2021/2022), regulations affecting withdrawal and failure to attend have been relaxed in all degree programmes:

1. <sup>1</sup>Students can withdraw from an examination by not attending. <sup>2</sup>A failure to attend will generally be counted as excused. <sup>3</sup>Students 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. <sup>4</sup>They will be considered to have been excused from the examination even without submitting a doctor's certificate ('vertrauensärztliches Attest' in German). <sup>5</sup>The failure to attend will not be recorded as a failed attempt.
2. <sup>1</sup>In the event of withdrawal or failure to attend the first attempt of an examination, registration to the examination will be cancelled, subject to the provisions in sentence 3. <sup>2</sup>In the event of withdrawal or failure to attend a resit examination, registration to the examination will be cancelled. <sup>3</sup>Sentence 2 applies for withdrawal from the first attempt of an examination in cases where a resit examination is offered in the same semester; students can withdraw from the resit examination themselves.
3. <sup>1</sup>For 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. <sup>2</sup>Extensions 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) <sup>1</sup>The result of any examination taken will count. <sup>2</sup>Sitting the examination again as an attempt to improve grades is not permitted. <sup>3</sup>Notwithstanding sentence 1, the Examinations Committee will grant students who fail an examination at the final attempt in winter semester 2020/2021 or summer semester 2021 due to the negative impact of the coronavirus pandemic one further attempt at the examination upon request. <sup>4</sup>The student must file a request pursuant to sentence 3 with the Examinations Committee immediately after learning that they have failed the examination at the final attempt. The request must detail the reasons beyond the student's control which led to the examination being failed (at the final attempt). <sup>5</sup>Given that students can withdraw from examinations at any time pursuant to (2)(1), a lack of opportunity to prepare for the examination shall not count as a reason beyond the student's control.

(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.

(5) <sup>1</sup>Paragraphs 1 to 4 do not apply to doctoral or habilitation procedures. <sup>2</sup>For 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. <sup>3</sup>Paragraphs 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 currently valid version.

### **Section 6 Legal validity**

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

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

(5) <sup>1</sup>The fourth amendment statute shall come into effect on 1 April 2021. <sup>2</sup>Notwithstanding sentence 1, the amendments in Section 5 (2)(2) shall also apply to the examinations scheduled for winter semester 2020/2021. <sup>3</sup>Pursuant to (1)(4), the period of validity of the Coronavirus Regulations shall be extended until the end of summer semester 2021.

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

(7) <sup>1</sup>The sixth amendment statute shall come into effect on 1 October 2021. <sup>2</sup>According to (1)(4), the period of validity of the Coronavirus Regulations shall be extended until the end of winter semester 2021/2022.