

Provisions regarding different performance assessment methods in distance learning and replacement services

Consistent decisions of the Senate (October 15, 2020) and the Rectorate (October 27, 2020)

1. Non-continuous assessment courses

In the case of course exams ("lecture exams" as the only exam procedure), exam dates at the beginning, in the middle and at the end of each semester are to be scheduled in the 2020/2021 winter semester and in the 2021 summer semester.

In a deviation from the regulations on course exams, non-continuous assessment courses may also be assessed on the basis of several partial performances or on the basis of a written work in the case of online teaching. The partial performances or the written work are to be scheduled in such a way that they can be completed by the end of the semester. The course leader is entitled to allow the completion of a partial performance for courses of the winter semester until July 15 of the following semester, for courses of the summer semester until February 15 of the following semester, provided there is a valid admission to the course of study at the time of submission. This means:

- Students who have rendered at least a partial performance or the written work are to be assessed.
- Students who have not done a partial performance or have not submitted written work are not to be assessed. The examination does not count towards the number of examination attempts. There is no freeze period for examinations.

If a written work or partial performance is scheduled, a special registration for this examination method must be provided as with course examinations on BOKUonline, independent of course registration.

Even in the case of on-site teaching, existing course concepts that schedule partial performances or a written work may be continued until the end of the 2020/2021 winter semester.

Exams via video conference are permitted and can be a single examination process or a partial performance. Regulations for conducting video conference exams must be observed.

The provisions of section 11 of the COVID-19-Universitäts- und Hochschulverordnung, federal law gazette II 171/2020 as amended, must be followed when conducting course exams by electronic means.

Alternatives to on-site examinations should be especially provided for students who can prove that they

- belong to a risk group or live together with persons belonging to a risk group,
- cannot enter the country with reasonable effort or whose entry can be proven to result in an officially ordered quarantine

The application is analogous to the application for an alternative examination method in

accordance with section 81 para. 2 of the BOKU statutes.

2. Continuous assessment courses

If on-site teaching is not possible due to existing provisions, the option to complete the required partial performances without physical attendance is to be made available. Courses that in previous semesters largely or exclusively consisted of practical performances must also be essentially converted to distance learning.

This means in particular that the option to complete exercises without being physically present and without a practical component is made available.

In contrast to this, the following courses cannot be completed without physical attendance:

- Courses in which students learn how to deal practically with potential hazards (e.g. hazardous substances such as chemicals, explosive and shooting exercises).
- Courses in which the learning of practical skills is a prerequisite for acquiring competencies (especially federally regulated professional qualifications).

Alternatives to the completion of a performance that require physical presence should be especially provided for students who can prove that they belong to a risk group or live together with persons belonging to a risk group.

The application is analogous to the application for an alternative examination method in accordance with section 81 para. 2 of the BOKU statutes.

Students who cannot complete a continuous assessment course in the 2020/2021 winter semester or in the 2021 summer semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic are not to be evaluated. The course leaders should enable alternative dates or an alternative option in such cases, if the student can demonstrate that postponement would delay graduation.

3. Field trips

For excursions that could not or cannot take place in the 2020/2021 winter semester and in the 2021 summer semester, the provision of an alternative for already-registered students or for a number of students based on the average number of participants in previous semesters is to be made available (e.g. virtual excursion, portfolios or homework, alternative methods as with mandatory internships).

The alternative option is to be determined in such a way that it can be provided by the end of each semester. The course leader is entitled to allow the replacement performance to be completed until July 15, 2021 or February 15, 2022, provided there is a valid admission to the course of study at the time of submission.

4. Mandatory internships

In the case of compulsory internships that cannot be started or that have to be discontinued due

to the COVID-19 pandemic, an alternative arrangement for part or all of the mandatory internship still to be completed should be made available.

An alternative arrangement for the entire mandatory internship is to be made available in all cases in which a student is able to demonstrate that postponement would delay graduation.

The following are particularly suitable as alternative arrangements:

- a recorded professional exchange with practitioners,
- subject-related written work,
- practical activities in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Examination resits

In the case of discontinuation of on-site teaching, resit exams are to be carried out, if the student is convincingly able to show that postponement would be disadvantageous to the course of the study.

The exam procedure is to be determined taking into account the protective measures in effect at the time. Lecturers are not obliged to participate in an examination board. An examination date is only to be set by the Dean of Studies if the student expressly agrees to the examination procedure on offer.

6. Introduction and orientation phase

Before the completion of the introduction and orientation phase, further courses to a maximum of 36 ECTS points from the first and second semester can be completed by November 30, 2020. Registrations for courses and exams existing on November 30, 2020 remain valid.

7. Submission of master's theses and dissertations

Master's theses must be submitted electronically to Study Services no later than three weeks before the date of the defense, for as long as this situation is in effect. The graduation documents are only to be issued after a bound copy has been submitted. Dissertations are also to be submitted electronically; the regulation regarding the graduation documents is to be applied analogously.

8. Notification of changed examination methods

In the case of scheduled on-site examinations an alternative electronic form of examination must be announced in BOKUonline at the beginning of the semester. Changed examination methods must be communicated by email to the students and entered in BOKUonline as additional information for the affected exam date.

9. International study programmes

In the case of international study programmes that require a compulsory semester abroad, the Dean of Studies may cancel this if students had scheduled the semester abroad in the summer semester 2021 or in the winter semester 2021/2022.

If graduation is not possible without a semester abroad, the Dean of Studies has to determine suitable courses at the home university at the request of the student for students whose home university is the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna. A statement from the programme coordinator must be obtained.

10. Coming into effect

This regulation enters into effect on the day following the announcement in the newsletter. At the same time the provisions of April 14, 2020 expires.

11. Abrogation

This regulation is to be applied to all examinations and alternative methods undertaken by September 30, 2021 or by February 15, 2022, even if the course certificate is only to be issued at a later date.

In the case of international study programmes, this regulation is to be applied to all study requirements that are met in place of a semester abroad planned for the 2021 summer semester or for the 2021/2022 winter semester.