

Oktober 2021

Dear colleagues!

We especially would like to welcome all new colleagues very warmly and we wish you a successful start at BOKU! Likewise, we greet all other colleagues. Hopefully you were able to use the summer months for recreation and some vacation time.

### **New app of the works council**

We want to provide you with up-to-date information more quickly, and have therefore invested in a BOKU-Brwiss app with the support of the ÖGB publishing house and the GÖD. This is now available for download and we invite you to use the app frequently:



### **Homeoffice**

The home office agreement at BOKU, which was issued due to the pandemic, ends on 31.10.2021 (see current announcement of the rectorate). Over the summer months and currently, intensive negotiations are still underway for a works agreement. The final agreement will hopefully be ready to be signed soon.

For the time being, the homeworking regulation and the possibility of alternating work will be extended until a works agreement has been concluded, insofar as the work schedule permits and after consultation with the supervisor. (Rectorate Update COVID-19, 22.9.2021)

Currently, the following still applies: Employees who work in a home office for at least 26 days per year can claim up to €300 per year for ergonomic furniture such as chairs, desks and lighting as income-related expenses. At the same time - from 2021 - up to 300 € home office allowance (3 € per day for a maximum of 100 home office days), can be drawn tax-free.

Per definition "Home office days" are only those days on which the work was performed entirely in the home office. Mixed presence (home office with office or teaching events, e.g. exercises or excursions) does not count as a home office day.

The prerequisite for claiming the tax benefits is a home office agreement between the employer and the employee. In addition, the regulations are initially limited until 2023.

<https://www.bmf.gv.at/public/top-themen/home-office-pauschale.html>

### **CAUTION: Home office can jeopardize commuter allowance**

In connection with home office, the provisions of the commuter allowance must also be taken into account. COVID-19 conditional exemptions have been terminated as of 7/1/2021. Please refer to the explanations on the Ministry of Finance page:

<https://www.bmf.gv.at/themen/steuern/arbeitnehmerinnenveranlagung/pendlerfoerderung-das-pendlerpauschale/allgemeines-zum-pendlerpauschale.html>

### **University Law Amendment §109 "Chain Contracts"**

The regulations of the new § 109 will keep the works councils at the universities busy for a longer time. Explanations from the Union GÖD on this can be found on the BRwiss homepage ([www.boku.ac.at/br-wiss.html](http://www.boku.ac.at/br-wiss.html)). This information will be updated quickly if necessary. The BRwiss-BOKU is committed to a complete renunciation of this regulation. We actually try to negotiate that at least BOKU-internally an adequate and fair solution can be found for the employees.

### **A1 form for business trips abroad in the EU**

The A1 form of the BVAEB is to be carried along on business trips abroad in the European area. It sometimes takes longer to issue, so request it in good time via the HR department. See also:

<https://boku.ac.at/pers/themen/dienstreisen/a1-bescheinigung-eu-ewr-ausland-bzw-schweiz#/faq/c466038>

Please always observe and check the current entry and exit regulations during the pandemic.

### **Works agreements - negotiations**

The summer months were used for intensive and constructive negotiations on the drafts of several works agreements with the Rectorate (anniversary bonus, home office, time recording). Significant progress was made in several areas, so that new works agreements can be expected to be signed in the near future.

### **Teaching and Corona rules**

We ask you to note that we, as university employees, are active in the area of sovereign law in the implementation of teaching and examinations. Official instructions must therefore be followed precisely and these must be implemented without any gaps. This also includes the obligation to control the "G-rules". Should organizational problems arise, we recommend that you discontinue the course, leave the lecture hall and immediately notify the Rectorate and the safety specialist Erik Griebel.

### **Retirement of Ass. Prof. DI Dr. Ewald Pertlik**

The chairman of BRwiss, Ewald PERTLIK, has taken up his well-deserved retirement on October 1, 2021. For this reason, he has also retired from his function as chairman. We thank him very much for his commitment and collegial leadership and wish him all the best for the future!

### **Election of a new chairman of BRwiss**

The vacant position of a chairperson of the works council body made a new election necessary. Mr. ao. Univ. Prof. DI Dr. Peter HOLUBAR received the required majority and accepted the election. The previous chairman Ewald PERTLIK was elected as the new deputy chairman with the required approval. Due to teaching assignment he can continue to belong to the committee.

### **Contact with the Work Council**

Personal inquiries and consultations are possible in presence, as well as online in compliance with the 3G rules. In the case of online-talks, please ensure absolute confidentiality - in your best interest - for the duration of the conversation. Work council members are bound to strict confidentiality and this protection also applies to you.

Please send any inquiries to: [brwiss@boku.ac.at](mailto:brwiss@boku.ac.at). To schedule an appointment with the Chairman, please email [brwiss@boku.ac.at](mailto:brwiss@boku.ac.at) or [peter.holubar@boku.ac.at](mailto:peter.holubar@boku.ac.at). The office of the scientific staff works council is located at Muthgasse 11, Stiege 2, ground floor, 1190 Vienna.

**Your work council's members wish you all a good start into and  
successful time in the winter semester;  
and please stay healthy!**



Photo: H. Balas

Yours sincerely

Ao, Univ. Prof. DI Dr. Peter Holubar MBA  
Chairman of the Works council for the scientific staff

*Disclaimer: As a works council, we make every effort to pass on all information to our colleagues correctly and up to date. Nevertheless, we cannot guarantee its accuracy. If you have specific questions regarding labor law, please contact the office of the works council, the Chamber of Labor Arbeiterkammer Wien or the union GÖD.*