

Betriebsrat für das wissenschaftliche Personal
Staff council of scientific staff
Vorsitzender: Ass.Prof. DI Dr. Ewald Pertlik

July 2021

Dear colleagues!

First of all, we would like to thank you all for your cooperation and solidarity during the pandemic crisis. We also thank you for your patience and commitment to the university and its students, despite the considerable difficulties and restrictions.

Vacation Planning

Use the coming weeks for your more than well-deserved recreational holiday! When planning your vacation - especially when traveling abroad - please keep in mind the current warnings and advisories issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

<https://www.bmeia.gv.at>

Home-Office

The home office agreement at BOKU, which was issued during the pandemic, will end on 31.08.2021 (see the Rectorate's announcement of 28.06.2021). Currently both workers-councils are engaged in negotiations with the rectorate for a company agreement that will regulate future home office.

Employees who work at least 26 days a year in a home office can claim up to 300€ per year for office equipment such as chairs, desks and lighting as income-related expenses, whereby a partial amount can already be claimed retroactively for 2020. Starting with 2021 up to 300€ home office allowance (3€ per day for a maximum of 100 home office days) granted by an employer can be drawn tax-free. The prerequisite for claiming the tax benefits is a home-office agreement between the employer and the employee. These regulations are limited until 2023.

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

ATTENTION: Home office and commuter allowance

In connection with home office, the provisions of the commuter allowance (Pendlerpauschale) must also be considered. The COVID-19 conditional exemptions have been terminated as of 1st July, 2021. Please note the explanations on the page of the Ministry of Finance

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

UG amendment § 109 “Chain contracts”

Explanations of the GÖD (Union) regarding paragraph 109 (exception to the chain contract ban) can be found on the homepage of the BRwiss at www.boku.ac.at/br-wiss.html. This information will be updated as soon as concrete instructions for action are available from HR management. Key points of the regulation as of 1.10.2021 are:

- The amendment to the UG also does not change the fact that the university can conclude permanent employment contracts with employees in the global budget and third-party funding areas at any time, which can also be terminated flexibly (unilaterally with notice or by mutual agreement).
- The new §109 no longer differentiates between full- or part-time employment with regard to the duration and number of employments.
- All periods of service at a university are added up for life (except for student employees) and may be limited to a maximum of 8 years. In the case of globally financed staff, this may be a maximum of 3 employment contracts; in the case of third-party funded staff, the number of employment contracts is not limited.

The details as well as the very complex transitional regulations can be found on our homepage: <https://boku.ac.at/interessensvertretungen/betriebsrat-fuer-das-wissenschaftliche-personal-br-wiss/newsitem/64505>

Availability during the summer months

The BRwiss will also be reachable during the summer months. Consultations are possible under 3G rules with personal presence, but preferably online. The works council members are bound to strict confidentiality!

The office of the works council for the scientific staff is located at Muthgasse 11, Stiege 2, ground floor, 1190 Vienna. Please send inquiries to: brwiss@boku.ac.at make an appointment with the chairperson, please send an email to brwiss@boku.ac.at or ewald.pertlik@boku.ac.at.

Your works councilors wish you all a relaxing summer – stay healthy!



Photo: H. Balas

With collegial greetings
Ass.Prof. DI Dr. Ewald Pertlik
Chairman
BR for the scientific staff

Disclaimer: As a works council, we make every effort to provide our colleagues with correct and up-to-date information. Nevertheless, we cannot guarantee its accuracy. If you have specific questions regarding labor law, etc., please contact the office of the works council, the Chamber of Labor (Arbeiterkammer) or the Union GÖD.