To all members of
Hochschule für Künste Bremen

- via email -

April 3, 2020
UPDATE: On the implications of precautionary measures taken due to the coronavirus outbreak

Dear colleagues and dear students,

The decision to go into emergency mode has had comprehensive consequences for the Hochschule für Künste Bremen, albeit many aspects still remain uncertain or are being currently under discussion. At this point, some measures seem contradictive. All of us – faculty, students and administrative members alike – have to adjust our response dynamically, in line with rapidly evolving developments.

Therefore and in this context, I would like to urge you, to only follow information provided by the official channels.

Merely in-person teaching was cancelled. Faculty is strongly encouraged to generate and set up alternative forms of remote learning for their students – to the extent possible – and be available for individual consultation. Please also consider the time period before the Easter break for meetings of the Studiengangskommissionen (StuKo) or Fachgruppen and actively reach out to student representatives to include them.

To all our students: We would like to offer you the opportunity to earn credit points, take your exams and graduate during the summer semester 2020, if and to the extent that you absolutely have to do so and as long as this can actually be achieved. In the opinion of the University’s Board, however, there should neither be an obligation to have the semester credited nor to take exams. There should be no negative repercussions for students in terms of maximum period of study, student grants and support received under the federal law concerning the promotion of education and training (BaföG), or of your visa situation etc.

That there will be no negative repercussions and consequences for students is one of the main objectives of the Hochschule für Künste Bremen as for all the other universities in Bremen. This is a shared commitment that is being discussed on state and federal level by university administrations, government authorities, and ministers of education and art together. How exactly this can be achieved in practice, is being assessed currently.

At the moment and given the circumstances, Hochschule für Künste Bremen is doing its utmost to focus on flexible solutions. I will provide an update on this as soon as concrete measures and decisions have been made.
Deutschlandstipendium
- Disbursements for current Deutschlandstipendium scholarship holders (WiSe 2019/2020) will continue regularly until the end of the funding period.
- Due to the current circumstances, Hochschule für Künste Bremen, together with the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, is able to grant an extension to the scholarship in individual cases and after receiving an official approval.
- The call for applications regarding the Deutschlandstipendium, starting in WiSe 2020/2021, will take place as planned.
- Your contact person for any questions regarding the Deutschlandstipendium is Petra Döling (petra.doeling@hfk-bremen.de).

Fees for long-running studies
- AStA and the university administration are advocating both for the suspension of fees for long-term students for this semester and consequently for the reimbursement of aforementioned fees.

  Our senator Dr. Claudia Schilling has not made a decision on this yet. I will forward information on any developments regarding this issue as soon as a final agreement is reached.

Assistance and support
- You can find a number of contacts providing assistance and support during this challenging time if you visit the HfK Website „Corona Info“ section 12. This list is updated frequently.

Entrance exams
- The Online portal to submit applications for Wintersemester 2020 will remain open. Students applying for one of the degree programs will hand in their application exclusively online at this point.
- The Integrated Design Program (both for BA and MA), the Digital Media Program, and the Diploma Fine Arts Program will conduct a digital admission process only.
- Further information will be forwarded in due time and will be published on our website.
- The deadline for applying to all degree programs in the Music Department has been extended until Monday, May 5, 2020. Entrance exams for any and all degree programs in the Music Department are postponed and will not take place in June 2020. The latest information on dates concerning entrance exams in the Music Department will be published on our website on April 30, 2020 as well.

Events (Concerts, exhibitions etc.) taking place at HfK after April 30, 2020
- If events that are scheduled at HfK after April 30, 2020 will be able to actually take place will be decided on April 14, 2020 the latest.
  I will provide information on this as soon as a decision has been made.
Advance payment on teaching assignments (Lehrauftrag)

Flexible, experimental and digital formats of courses are supposed to take place, if possible. Advance payments on teaching assignments (Lehrauftrag) can be granted. Please contact the respective person in your department:

- Arts and Design Department (Fachbereich Kunst und Design): 
  Lehrauftrag-KUD@hfk-bremen.de
- Music Department (Fachbereich Musik): fbv-musik@hfk-bremen.de

Volunteering in Bremen

- The Senator for Finances encourages all government employees to register and volunteer in order to support public and government agencies temporarily. If you are currently not able to work at full capacity, you can sign up as a volunteer.
- Please discuss this with your superior beforehand. Find further information on this in the attached document. To volunteer, please contact Dezernat 3 until April 8, 2020: d3coron@hfk-bremen.de

Please distribute this announcement within your department and inform your colleagues and fellow students.

As you will receive the latest and updated information, in line with rapidly evolving developments, through your official HfK email account, I encourage you to check your official HfK emails regularly.

I sincerely thank everybody who helps to keep all operations running at HfK during this challenging time and to prepare for a lively semester nevertheless.

With kind regards
- digital version without signature -

Dr. Antje Stephan
Chancellor