

Framework for Studies and Teaching

Fall Term 2022/23

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1. Preamble

The University of Applied Sciences Emden/Leer is a campus university. The value of personal encounters and personal exchange is essential for the university as a whole, for studies, for research and for the cooperation between students, teachers and employees.

In the past weeks, the university management has dealt intensively with the current energy crisis and the resulting effects on the fall term 2022/23. At the same time, Corona will continue to be part of our way of life.

We will have to react to increasing prices on the energy market with immediate measures. In coordination with the university landscape of the state of Lower Saxony, the property management is currently developing the necessary measures. The energy saving targets are the economic basis for a face-to-face study semester. **After the past pandemic – related semester, this is our main goal: With an adequate view on the pandemic and the energy crisis, the university management explicitly commits to an on-campus and face-to-face semester in fall term 2022/23.** Due to the special framework conditions, the university management asks all employees, lecturers and students to communicate directly and openly and to talk to each other in the event of problems.

On the other hand, we have gained valuable experience with digital teaching and learning formats and with the possibilities of digital dialogue or mobile working in the last few semesters. We got to know and tried out numerous new tools, formats and concepts that have fundamentally modernized teaching at our university in many areas. In the fall term 2022/23, we want to discuss initial suggestions throughout the university as to how these experiences can be meaningfully integrated into our semester planning in the future. However, we can only succeed in a solid overall concept and implement the measures when we finally leave the "crisis mode" and are able to invest strength and resources in the "teaching of the future".

2. Relevant Regulation

The “Lower Saxony Ordinance on Infection Preventive Protective Measures against the Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 and its variants” is decisive for the actions taken by the university management. All protective measures, hygiene concepts as well as control and follow-up regulations of our university are based on these legal framework conditions. The validity of this ordinance is prolonged until 30.09.2022.

Further ordinances, a new version of the applicable regulations, questions about the interpretation of existing regulations or necessary coordination processes between the universities in Lower Saxony may make it necessary to revise the framework conditions for studying and teaching in the fall term 2022/23 at short notice. Please inform yourself about the status on our homepage at <https://www.hs-emden-leer.de/hochschule/hochschule/ueber-die-hochschule/infos-zum-coronavirus/informationen-fuer-studierende>.

3. Objectives of the Event Planning

When planning events in the fall term 2022/23, the following (partly competing) objectives should be achieved against the background of the current and expected general conditions:

- As a leader in innovation and partner in the region, we contribute to saving energy in line with our social responsibility.
- Reduce the infection rate in the region and beyond and ensure the protection of all members of the Emden / Leer University of Applied Sciences.
- Make the qualification and learning goals of the students accessible and ensure the quality of teaching.
- Enable the students to settle in the university and keep them at the university.
- Continue to profile the University of Emden / Leer as a campus university and as a regional university
- Obtain a high degree of flexibility in order to enable a possible adjustment of the event planning in the event of changes in the pandemic situation.

4. Framework for Face – to – Face Events

Our hygiene concept dated May 9th, 2022 is still valid due to the update of the Lower Saxony Corona Ordinance until September 30th, 2022. Therefore, the following regulations apply to teaching:

1. We have the urgent recommendation to wear a mouth-nose cover (FFP2 mask) in all interior rooms of the university.¹
2. The rooms can be fully occupied. There may not be more people in the rooms than seats.
3. Persons who show symptoms of illness that can be linked to corona disease are not allowed to enter the university campus in Emden or Leer, even if they present a valid proof in accordance with the 3G rule.²
4. An adequate ventilation must be ensured in all rooms and corridors.³
5. All individuals are required to abide by the “AHA” rule.⁴

Depending on the applicable (legal) framework, a short-term tightening of these regulations cannot be ruled out.

¹ Excluded - as in the past - are presenters and people who, due to a disability or previous illnesses, such as severe heart or lung diseases, cannot reasonably be expected to wear a mouth and nose cover due to the higher breathing resistance. The university asks that you bring a corresponding certificate with you

² The symptoms include, for example but not exclusively, cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat, or disorders of the sense of smell and/or taste.

³ If possible, the rooms should be ventilated at regular intervals (20-5-20 principle) via windows. The extent to which the ventilation intervals have to be adjusted when temperatures drop will be decided during the fall term depending on the prevailing general conditions.

⁴ Hands should be washed and disinfected regularly

5. Scheduling and Room Planning for Face – to – Face and Online Teaching

The beginning and end of the lectures as well as the examination periods remain as planned:

- Lecture start: 19.09.2022
- End of lecture: 06.01.2023
- Start of examination period: 07.01.2023

The allocation of the rooms is the same as before the pandemic; the rooms can also be planned accordingly. Rooms should be planned for all courses, even if they take place online.

Lecturers can also deliver their courses online in the fall term 2022/23 if this for health reasons and provided this is didactically justifiable and practically feasible. Taking into account the requirements of the module descriptions and the respective examination regulations, this also applies to the choice of the type of examination. The decision about the offered teaching format is made by the lecturer. However, you are asked to plan attendance formats in accordance with the character of the campus university, also plan face-to-face units or formats and to coordinate closely with the dean of the faculty.

Regardless of this, all university members must always expect that a deterioration of the general conditions will make it necessary to close the university (possibly also at short notice). As a result, even if face-to-face teaching is planned, it may be necessary to switch to online teaching again.

6. Regulations for Students in Quarantine

A special group are students who have to be in quarantine due to an infection with SARS-CoV-2. In the case of an officially ordered quarantine, suitable compensatory measures must be agreed with the students concerned in order to avoid disadvantages. The students are asked to actively report to the lecturers. Lecturers are asked to offer additional consultation hours for this group of students. A summary of blackboard pictures or something similar, for example as a photo protocol, can also be helpful for follow-up work. The affected students should, however, also check to what extent it will be possible to independently follow up on the content of the event by exchanging ideas with fellow students. This type of personal responsibility and self-management corresponds to Humboldt's ideal of education and is an essential part of a degree.