

## ORGANISATION OF TEACHING IN THE WINTER SEMESTER 2021/22 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN

Agreed at the Presidential Board: 1 September 2021

In the coming winter semester 2021/22, the University of Göttingen will offer as much face-to-face teaching as possible, taking into account the increasing progress of the vaccine roll-out and the options for testing. In fact, the 3G rule “*geimpft, genesen, getestet*” (vaccinated, recovered, tested) is an important guideline, as it represents the basic requirements for participation in face-to-face teaching by lecturers and students. The University will also continue to develop its online teaching strategy and rely, as far as possible, on hybrid teaching systems, ie face-to-face courses will be live-streamed for participants as far as possible. Alternatively, parallel courses can take place partly onsite and partly online. Together with the testing service provided by Campus Covid Screen (CCS), which will continue to be offered free of charge, there will thus be a **minimal risk in attending classroom teaching in person** in the winter semester.

A survey of our students, in which approximately 9,500 students participated, revealed that more than 80% are already fully vaccinated and another 10% have received their first vaccination. It is bound to be the case that faculty members have a similarly high rate of vaccination. This is in line with figures collected at other universities (e.g. Cologne, Tübingen, Dortmund) in recent weeks. Therefore, face-to-face teaching should take place for all those who are vaccinated, recovered or tested. In accordance with the updated coronavirus regulation, the distancing rules will be relaxed to the extent that planning can be done with 50% occupancy of the available rooms. *Zentral Raumvergabe* (central room booking) is currently implementing this as fast as possible.

Every effort is being made to prevent the spread of the SARS CoV2 virus. Since those who are vaccinated can also be infectious, wearing a facemask is still mandatory in all University buildings. Despite these precautions, all lecturers are urged to make their lectures accessible in hybrid form, i.e. via zoom or similar live video, to students who are not yet comfortable in larger crowds or who have to stay at home temporarily due to quarantine. To this end, all lecture halls with more than 100 seats will be equipped with video technology. Smaller seminars can be streamed directly via zoom or similar meetings software using a laptop with camera. Lecturers can also continue to offer online-only events if they still wish to avoid larger crowds for safety reasons. Furthermore, care should be taken to minimise the risk of infection by regularly ventilating seminar rooms and not allowing events to go on for too long.

Students who form study groups or similar teams are also encouraged to stay primarily within these groups during events. Especially in large lectures, the members of these groups should sit closer together to allow a greater distance from other groups. In the case of events that are offered more than once (eg working groups), the groups should be put together according to one's own sense of risk, where, if possible, there should be the option for at least one group to complete the work completely online.

3G will be monitored wherever possible, especially at the entrances of the Central Lecture Hall (ZHG) and the VG. In the larger lecture halls outside the ZHG, monitoring will be carried out by the lecturer in the form of spot checks. The same applies to seminars, group work, internships and excursions.

All teachers should regularly inform the students that despite the high proportion of vaccinated people, the incidence of infection must continue to be monitored. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that a group of the students in a course get tested at CCS regularly (about twice a week). Reminders will be sent out regularly (email circulars, UniNews, University homepage). Furthermore, the Presidential Board will stay in contact with the Board of UMG to know how many patients with COVID-19 are currently being treated.

The plan described is also intended to enable vulnerable groups and international students, who are unable to enter the country due to the pandemic, to participate as much as possible in courses. Attendance in person is only required if the sessions are indispensable for achieving the learning objectives (for instance for internships or excursions). In view of the fact that students may find themselves in quarantine due to the risk of infection that still exists, care must be taken to ensure that they do not suffer any disadvantages as a result. This is the only way to maintain willingness to get tested. Since there will still be restrictions in the coming semester, the practice of granting generous compensation for disadvantages due to the pandemic, which has proven successful in the last three semesters, is to be continued. Faculty induction events will be held in person whenever possible, taking into account the incidence of infection and the above rules. A separate plan is still being worked out for examinations in the winter semester.

The measures described above will allow us to carry out classroom teaching in the winter semester again. However, they also require the cooperation of all, ***For the Good of All!***