INFO FOR ALL JUNIOR FELLOWS IN TIMES OF CORONA

Dear All!

We truly hope that our message finds you well and healthy!

These days are a very special time in which we need to stay in contact on a regular basis. Please also stay in contact with each other, support colleagues and keep us informed about your situation and issues so that we can support you! The following information attempts to give you an update on the question previously raised.

The BIGSAS team will continue to work partly in the home office. You will therefore always reach us via email.

Still, we are obliged to reduce public traffic in the offices as far as possible. If personal attendance is nevertheless absolutely necessary, it should only take place by prior appointment to avoid crowds of people.

We are pretty sure that responses to your questions will need to be tackled on a case-by-case basis. With this in mind, please do not hesitate to consult all of us for your matters, including

- your supervisors and the Deans of BIGSAS;
- the BIGSAS admin office with Anette Volk and Sabine Wagner;
- the BIGSAS Coordinator, Juliane Fender;
- the Coordinator for EC & EO, Dr. Christine Scherer;
- the Director of the G&D Office, Dr. Christine Vogt-William;

1. Staying in touch
The BIGSAS and EC & EO team is reachable via email and phone as usual. The best way is an email or a phone call to +49-921-55-5110 (Juliane Fender); 55-5100 (Christine Scherer); 55-4791 (Christine Vogt-William).

2. Defences
Doctoral examinations (defences) need to be held in camera (without an audience), provided that the appropriate hygiene measures and distance rules are observed (at least 1.5 m distance). External doctoral examination committee members are allowed on campus again provided that the respective valid Entry Quarantine Directive for Bavaria is followed. Further information on infection control at the university here: Guidelines for the enforcement of the Second Bavarian Infection Control Ordinance at Bavarian universities.

On 23 April 2020, the University of Bayreuth published a statute for the extension and modification of the examination forms in doctoral regulations due to the restrictions of public life caused by SARS-CoVid-2. Accordingly, a different examination form than that defined in the respective statutes can be chosen. Forms of examination that cannot be conducted as provided for in the respective statutes due to the official prohibitions and measures to protect against the coronavirus may be replaced by an exclusive digital remote examination, provided that this is suitable to ensure the monitoring of success in essentially the same way. Digital remote examinations are exams that are usually taken outside the premises of the University of Bayreuth with the help of telecommunication-capable
devices. In justified exceptional cases, oral doctoral examinations can be held as digital remote examinations after approval by the Dean of BIGSAS and - if provided for - can be held in camera.

Please first and foremost consult your supervisor and ask her/him to contact and consult with the chair of your doctoral examination committee who is responsible for the defence process. Please keep us, BIGSAS@uni-bayreuth.de, always updated.

3. Visas
In case your visa expires please note the following: In cases where neither immigration nor emigration is possible, the local authority (‘Ausländeramt’ Mr Wagner and Ms Fiebich) accepts within the usual deadlines (staring four weeks before the date of expiry) an email from you as Junior Fellows of BIGSAS in which you indicate your situation and apply for a prolongation. This message needs to be copied to bigsas@uni-bayreuth.de and Juliane Fender or Christine Scherer so that we can follow up each individual case and support each Junior Fellow in this context as well.

4. Travel
With regard to the permissibility of official travel, according to State instructions, the situation of official travel is unfortunately unchanged, only being permitted when absolutely necessary. The approval is subject to individual conditions: For what reason is the travel necessary? Which destination is planned? It would not be advisable for members of the University of Bayreuth, in their own interest, to travel to countries which are subject to a coronavirus-related travel warning from the Federal Foreign Office, or to 14 days of quarantine upon return because of the aforementioned Entry Quarantine Directive. If possible, video and telephone conferences are to be conducted instead.

5. Library
Bayreuth University Library reopened with restrictions on 20 April 2020. For your own safety and the protection of the staff, we request that you only visit the library premises if it is really necessary. In addition, we ask you to follow the instructions and to observe the distance markers on the floor as well as the rules of conduct on the posters in the libraries.
If you have any questions before visiting the library, you can contact them via email (auskunft.ub@uni-bayreuth.de) or phone (0921/55-3420; Mon– Thu 9 am – 4 pm and Fri 9 am – 2 pm).

Borrowing and returning
It is possible to borrow and return books and other media. Please note the current opening hours.
The University Library reserves the right to limit these service times if necessary.
Before visiting the library: Please research the items you need in our online catalogue and note down the shelfmarks for books in the reading room holdings.
The closed stacks ("Magazinbestände") can be ordered via our catalogue. These orders can be collected at the circulation desk in the Central Library the following workday.

Access to the library buildings
The reading rooms, group rooms and carrels will stay closed until further notice. Research at the terminals and PCs in the libraries is not possible.
The working places in the reading rooms are mostly blocked. In order to work on site, students of the University of Bayreuth can book a place in the RW partial library online. The Central Library and the other sub-libraries only offer a small number of individual places. Please ask the respective library for details.
University students and staff have access to a variety of digital resources such as e-books, e-journals, and databases, which can also be accessed from off-campus using a VPN/proxy or Shibboleth (publishers Springer Nature and Wiley). Please also refer to the information regarding online versions of journal articles on the website "Alternative ways for finding and obtaining journal articles".
6. Wellbeing and Health
These days of social distancing are not easy for anyone of us. However, we are aware that our institution and all members are in a specific situation. Immediate personal exchange, socialising and mobility stands at the centre of academia and our doctoral culture and some of us are currently not only isolated from friends and colleagues but also from family abroad. We emphasise that we are there to support you with clear and regular communication, swift feedback to your requests and possible joint virtual meetings. In cases where our support is not enough, we will nevertheless be able to refer you to experts and persons who have the respective expertise.

The following persons of the university’s office for psychologic consulting within the university might be helpful and can always be approached confidentially (German/English):

Dipl. Psych. Barbara Grüninger-Frost
0921 5559-52
barbara.grueninger-frost@studentenwerk-oberfranken.de

Dipl. Psych. Florian Hammon
0921 5559-12
florian.hammon@studentenwerk-oberfranken.de

M. Sc. Psych. Verena Gödrich
0921 5559-16
verena.goedrich@studentenwerk-oberfranken.de

Emergency Situations
Call 116 117 for medical aid in an emergency situation.