

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 necessary, it should only take place by prior appointment to avoid crowds of people. When entering the building please wear a face mask.

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

In justified cases, the doctoral examination committee may authorise external examiners to participate in the defence via video conference. **Prior to approval, the written consent of the doctoral candidate must be submitted.** The majority of the examiners and all examiners who are members of the University of Bayreuth must be personally present. **On 21 October 2020, the BIGSAS EC decided that external examiners should not travel to Bayreuth in order to take part in the defence. External members of the committee can thus only participate via video conference.**

These defences need to be held **in camera** (without an audience), provided that the appropriate hygiene measures and distance rules are observed. Further information on infection control at the university here: [Guidelines for the enforcement of the Second Bavarian Infection Control Ordinance at Bavarian universities.](#)

On 22 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](#). 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 **electronic remote examination**, provided that this is suitable to ensure the monitoring of success in essentially the same way. “Electronic” means via image and sound transmission. **The doctoral candidate may decide whether she/he wants her/his defence to be held as an electronic remote examination.** Electronic remote examinations **need approval by the Dean of BIGSAS.**

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. Town hall/Registration office

Please note that you need an appointment to enter the town hall. You go to the town hall if you want to register in Bayreuth, need a registration card or a police clearance certificate among other things. Use the “Bürgerservice” whenever you can (<https://www.buergerserviceportal.de/bayern/bayreuth>) and use the “Online-Terminreservierungsdienst” to schedule an appointment (<https://netappoint.de/ot/bayreuth/?company=bayreuth>).

4. 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 (starting 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.

5. Travel

With regard to the permissibility of official travel, according to State instructions, the situation of official travel varies according to the country/region you would like to enter. Travel to countries and regions designated by the RKI as risk areas cannot be authorised.

Please check the Travel and Safety Instructions from the Foreign Office here:

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/ReiseUndSicherheit/reise-und-sicherheitshinweise>

6. University

Universities are obligated to switch to purely digital teaching starting on 1 December 2020. This will initially apply until 20.12.2020.

In addition to the framework hygiene concept of the Bavarian universities, the University of Bayreuth set the following rules:

As of 23 October 2020, it is **compulsory to wear a simple face mask** in all areas of traffic in buildings of the University of Bayreuth (including those off campus) as well as in outside areas when a distance of 1,5 metres is not ensured. Face masks must also be worn in teaching rooms and at your work place, during meetings, in the library or during examination (such as defences). This rule applies from 23 October 2020 for at least six days, depending on the last time the 7-day incidence value of 35 was exceeded. Please make sure to check your emails as well as the “Corona Handbook”

(https://www.uni-bayreuth.de/pool/dokumente/corona/20201021_Corona-Handbuch_v1_2_final_DE.pdf), which is currently only in German but will be updated on a regular basis.

Follow the usual hygiene standards: keep 1,5 metres distance, wash your hands and use the measures at hand (such as disinfectants); cough and sneeze only into the crook of your arm.

Stay at home if you feel sick or had close contact with a person suffering from COVID-19

Read more information here: <https://www.uni-bayreuth.de/en/university/press/corona/occupational-health-safety-requirements/rules-face-to-face-classes/index.html>

7. Library

(NEW) The new version of the Infection Protection Measures Ordinance stipulates that it will not be possible to visit the University Library in-person. However, contactless lending will still be permitted.

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).

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".

Additionally, a lot of publishing houses now offer extended access to their databases. Please check here: https://www.ub.uni-bayreuth.de/de/news/2020-03-27_temporaere-Verlagsangebote/index.html

8. 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 psychological 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.