

INFO FOR ALL JUNIOR FELLOWS IN TIMES OF CORONA

Dear all,

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 in the home office for most of the time. However, you will always reach us via email. We are obliged to **reduce public traffic** in our 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 recommend that all visitors wear an **FFP2 mask** for their own protection and for the protection of others present.

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 Gender & Diversity 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

Defences in presence

Defences can be conducted **in presence**, subject to mandatory compliance with the relevant hygiene measures and distance rules (at least 1.5 m distance). Please take note of the [Binding rules for visiting the campus and branch offices](#).

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.** 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. The majority of the examiners and all examiners who are members of the University of Bayreuth **must be personally present**. The university recommends that **all examinees and examiners wear an FFP2 mask** for their own protection and for the protection of others present.

In order to keep the group of physically present persons as small as possible, it is recommended to **offer persons not directly involved** in the examination (*Hochschulöffentlichkeit*) **to participate in the examination virtually**. A guideline is available (please contact BIGSAS@uni-bayreuth.de).

Electronic remote examinations

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.** Thus, the decision for or against this form of examination lies with the doctoral candidate. 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 procedure. 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. Visa

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

Field Work Travel is possible again. However, please check the Travel and Safety Instructions from the Foreign Office here: <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de/ReiseUndSicherheit/reise-und-sicherheitshinweise>

At the moment, a declaration of urgency, written by the supervisor in German language, has to be submitted alongside the application documents. The declaration should contain an explanation regarding the indispensability of the field work trip in the scheduled period of time and that the trip cannot be replaced by other measures, such as digital/electronic tools or meetings. You may refer to our admin team in order to receive information on the required wording.

6. University

The 13th Bavarian Infection Protection Measures Ordinance enables Bavarian universities to offer events in attendance again. The following general conditions apply: The maximum number of participants depends on the size of the room available for this purpose. The calculation is also based on the minimum distance of 1.5 m between persons. FFP2 masks are mandatory. If the incidence is over 50, only participants who have themselves tested twice a week can be admitted.

On campus

Due to the regulations in the framework hygiene concept of the Bavarian universities, the university management has decided to limit the current mask obligation at the University of Bayreuth to indoor rooms only. This means that masks no longer have to be worn outside, even on the university campus, as long as the specified minimum distance is maintained.

FFP2 masks are compulsory in face-to-face events (especially in the face-to-face courses already running and in those that may be added from 21.06.2021 onwards) on the university campus and in the external offices; employees are required to wear a medical face mask. The same applies to meeting and circulation areas, especially in lifts, corridors, canteens and entrances. Employees are exempt from this after reaching the respective workplace, provided that the minimum distance of 1.5 m is reliably maintained and third parties are not present.

Please take also note of the [Binding rules for visiting the campus and branch offices](#).

Further information on infection control at the university may be found here: [Guidelines for the enforcement of the Second Bavarian Infection Control Ordinance at Bavarian universities](#).

Corona Handbook

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.

7. Library

Limited reopening of the University Library to the public from 10.03.2021: The Central Library and all sub-libraries are accessible again for the collection of ordered media and return. The workstations and PCs will still be inaccessible.

Employees are kindly requested to continue using the university's in-house mail service (campus including branch offices). There is also the option of having orders delivered via the book delivery service (also within Bayreuth), for which a charge will be made. Please inform yourself about current regulations and services on the website www.ub.uni-bayreuth.de.

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 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.