

## DER PRÄSIDENT



HfMT Hamburg Harvestehuder Weg 12 20148 Hamburg

To the members of the HfMT Hamburg

Hamburg, April 2, 2020

Dear students, dear colleagues,

I'm writing to you in an unusual situation. No one could have foreseen it. None of us have ever experienced anything like it. None of us can draw on any experience to deal with this situation. But I am very confident that the present situation will strengthen and enrich us all. We have to deal with digital teaching formats with an unprecedented intensity and try out new forms of communication in class. And we will do so under conditions that have had no methodological or technical preparation time.

Numerous good suggestions for the content and organizational design of the coming months have already been made from all deaneries, the AStA and the administration. I would like to thank you all very much for your willingness to accept the unusual challenges and make the best of the situation!

The next semester will inevitably be a "creative semester", which has not yet existed in this form. Although it was born out of necessity, we do not want to turn it into an "emergency semester" under any circumstances. The summer semester offers us the chance to change perspectives. We can use the distance to the familiar to reflect on new questions and old problems. At the same time, I am aware that the digital world cannot replace encounters in a shared space, in the same air, light and acoustics.

With today's status, it is impossible to predict when the university will be able to reopen for teaching, practicing and events. However, the lecture period will certainly begin on April 20, 2020 at 6:00 pm with an online semester opening, which will be broadcast as a video podcast on our homepage and in social networks. This was an idea from the AStA of our university, which I am very happy to support!

After the online semester opening, as long as it is necessary, different online formats will be used for teaching. You will receive an overview of which technical platforms are used and who you can contact for methodical-didactical support soon. I have full confidence that the individual teachers will find solutions together with their students. We are constantly monitoring the situation and will take every opportunity to move on to the usual classroom-based courses.

Due to the dangerous situation, different solutions for individual areas of the university or individual forms of teaching may be found. However, it is already becoming apparent that attendance phases of teaching will have to be postponed until the lecture-free period - primarily into late summer. This may also mean that the effects will also be felt in other semesters, for example by a delay of the start of the winter semester.

The possibilities for the use of digital teaching vary greatly in the various fields of study. In theoretical-scientific subjects, a larger part of teaching can take place in online formats than in artistic-practical subjects. Nonetheless, there are good technical possibilities to maintain contact between teachers and students in the latter cases also. Therefore, individual artistic lessons will also be given through online formats. These lessons can and will be recognized as a course of study or credited towards the teaching obligations of the lecturers.

However, the further course of the semester will show to what extent the study objectives in the various areas can be achieved. Thus, intermediate or final examinations will certainly have to be postponed to subsequent semesters. This applies increasingly to all forms of artistic ensemble work, for which we can only work out solutions when there are more precise estimates of the duration of the contact blocks.



I am also aware that this semester will have an impact on many student's long-term study planning, because everything that could not be achieved in the summer semester will have to be made up for in the following semesters. But we will also find flexible solutions for this problem. Despite all these limitations and unpredictable issues, the main priority is that you - dear students - make progress in your artistic, scientific and educational development. Even under these difficult conditions.

In order to enable you all to orientate yourselves within a certain framework, I would like to present our rough planning scenario in the following three points. This scenario enables the individual deaneries and institutes to work out a semester plan appropriate to their respective fields. For the HfMT as a university of art and science, there can be no common solution for all areas. Our semester design may also differ from the solutions of other universities in Hamburg. The deans, as well as the heads of the institutes and directors of studies will be in close contact with you regarding the individual planning.

- 1.** Online courses in the theoretical-scientific subjects will start on April 20, 2020. Students will be informed soon about the registration procedure. These courses will initially run for 12 weeks until 10 July 2020. Further developments will show whether it is possible to switch to classroom formats before this date. In these subjects, a three-week attendance phase would still be possible from mid-September onwards, at the end of which - where necessary - examinations could also be held.
- 2.** The artistic individual lessons will start from 20 April 2020 - if possible - as long-distance lessons. Very different formats are possible here. However, the premise should be that a larger part of these lessons should be given in classroom format at a later point in the semester. For example: it would be possible to organize shorter intensive attendance phases in the classroom in a course format or something similar later in the semester.
- 3.** university orchestra, drama projects, opera projects, chamber music, choir etc. would have to be postponed to a later date of the semester. A plan will be set up with the respective teachers and students in the coming weeks.



We will also keep you informed on an ongoing basis about concrete questions regarding entrance and final examinations, availability of rooms for events after the end of the public contact restrictions and many other topics as soon as reliable statements can be made.

I wish us all much success and strength in the organization of this special "creative semester".

Yours

*E. Simpson*

