Immediate measures by the University of Stuttgart to prevent the spread of coronavirus

Status, March 16, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

After today’s meeting of the corona crisis committee, the university directors have decided to implement the following measures:

1. The current stand is that lectures in the summer semester 2020 will begin on April 20, 2020. Until then, all those in positions of responsibility in the rectorate, faculties and central facilities will be working to reduce the risk of infection for students, teachers and employees as far as this is possible. Details will be published shortly.

2. Compulsory courses and events that are currently being held will be cancelled until after April 19, 2020. This applies to all current courses (lectures, compulsory internships, seminars, excursions etc.), including preparatory courses, introductory courses for students and events such as continuing education courses for teaching staff, employees, and university sports courses. All events organized by third parties at the University of Stuttgart will also be cancelled. Students may continue compulsory internships that are not held at the university, such as industrial internships, but this is at the discretion of the individual companies.

3. In order to help contain the spread of the coronavirus, the city of Stuttgart has banned all cultural, educational, sporting and leisure events until further notice (see https://www.stuttgart.de/item/show/273273/1/9/689685). For that reason, the University of Stuttgart has decided:

   a. Until teaching resumes, all conferences, meetings and other public events with external visitors will be cancelled. This also applies to recreational activities for students and employees on the University of Stuttgart campuses.

   b. Internal meeting, events or similar at the University of Stuttgart are permitted, as long as they do not involve groups of more than five people. In such cases, the guidelines from the Robert Koch Institute must be followed (see https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Kontaktreduzierung.html).

   c. This also applies to meetings of the faculty councils, the senate committees and appointments committee, which may only be carried out via video conference; circular resolutions should be possible, or will be made possible.

4. The university library and all department libraries will be closed from March 17, 2020 at 6 p.m. up to and including April 19, 2020. (see https://www.ub.uni-stuttgart.de/)

5. Administration, infrastructural facilities, and operating units will continue to operate until further notice. But please be aware:

   a. The Student Services Center and the International Center will only be offering consultation and services via telephone and email. Enrollment will be conducted via online-workflow.
6. **Members of the public may only enter university buildings and facilities if they have an important reason.** University archives, collections and such will remain closed to the public until further notice.

7. In order to break the chain of infection and to give parents the chance to care for their children at home now that all schools and daycare facilities have closed, we strongly recommend that all managers and supervisors ask their staff to **work from home**. Working from home must be approved by your supervisor. You are currently not required to contact the Department for Personnel and Legal Affairs. Please be aware, employees working from home must still be available. To ensure this, it will be possible to forward calls from your work telephone to a private connection.

   - **Extended flexitime regulations will follow shortly.**

   - **Employees in the “high-risk” group must work from home.** This also applies to those employees who live with someone in the high-risk group. If it is not possible for those in the high-risk group to work from home, employees must use any overtime and the university’s general regulations pertaining to working hours apply. If in doubt, please contact the Department for Personnel and Legal Affairs. More information can be found on our corona webpage (see https://www.uni-stuttgart.de/en/university/news/corona/).

   - **In order to ensure that the university remains operational, some personnel must remain onsite.** This includes those operating infrastructure facilities – including laboratories and the large-scale equipment belonging to the HLRS, the DSI, the HKW, the research sewage treatment plant and similar facilities, as well as administration, the IZUS and the rectorate, the Office of the Dean and the directors of central scientific facilities. The directors of these facilities and institutions must activate their emergency planning.

8. **To protect students and doctoral researchers, compulsory university examinations will be cancelled until after April 19, 2020.** Students whose examinations have been cancelled are not required to submit an examination withdrawal application. In the case of state teaching examinations, the Baden-Wuerttemberg Ministry of Science, Research and Art is seeking to come to an agreement with the relevant state examination boards. We will inform you of any decisions as quickly as possible.

   - **All deadlines for final assignments, seminar assignments, study papers and homework** will be extended for as long as the library is closed – currently until April 20, 2020. Furthermore, registration for modules, where the requirements cannot be met due to the new guidelines will be accepted on the condition that the requirements are met at a later date.

   - **Oral examinations** can be conducted, as long are no more than five people are involved and the guidelines from the Robert Koch Institute are followed (see https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Kontaktreduzierung.html).

   - **Doctoral examinations** may be carried out, if no more than five people are present. The public presentation must be included in the oral examination.

   - **Habilitation examinations** will be cancelled until further notice.

   - The university is responsible for any decisions on **holding cancelled events and examinations in the future**. More information about this will follow shortly.
f. The university will ensure that students will be able to complete all course assessments planned for the summer semester 2020, and that the studyability is guaranteed.

9. As things currently stand, the summer semester will begin on April 20, 2020 and following a majority vote by the Office of the Dean, faculties, staff council, Stuvus and the crisis committee, the semester will end as planned on July 18, 2020. This means the summer semester 2020 will be two weeks shorter. In some cases – for example internships – teaching may continue after July 20, 2020 in calendar weeks 30 and 31, or in calendar week 23.

10. **Business trips** to high-risk COVID areas (see https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Risikogebiete.html) are not permitted; if permission has already been granted, this is now withdrawn. All teaching staff, students and academics returning from areas that the Robert Koch Institute has classified as high risk must self-isolate for two weeks. Until further notice, business trips abroad are not permitted, in exceptional cases, the university directors may grant approval. Business trips within Germany must be reduced to a minimum.

11. In accordance with the decree issued by the Baden-Wuerttemberg Ministry of Science, Research and Art, on March 16, 2020, the Studierendenwerk’s *cafeterias* will be closed from March 17 up to and including April 19 (see https://www.baden-wuerttemberg.de/de/service/presse/pressemitteilung/pid/landesregierung-beschliesst-massnahmen-gegen-die-ausbreitung-des-coronavirus/).

12. All members of the University of Stuttgart are asked to follow the recommendations of the “Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung für die Bildungseinrichtungen” (see https://www.infektionsschutz.de/fileadmin/infektionsschutz.de/Downloads/Merkblatt-Bildungseinrichtungen-Coronavirus.pdf).

13. The University of Stuttgart will be updating its planning and measures and informing its members and the public regularly and as detailed as possible. We ask that all members of the university regularly check the University of Stuttgart’s corona webpage: https://www.uni-stuttgart.de/en/university/news/corona/