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Special statute of Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences for the management of the challenges in examinations posed by the coronavirus-SARS-CoV-2 epidemic

Originally dated May 1, 2020
by the President of the University of Applied Sciences Darmstadt pursuant to § 38 para. 4 sentence 1 HHG (Hessian Law of Higher Education) and subsequently confirmed by the Senate,

last modified on February 4, 2021
by President according to § 38 para. 4 sentence 1 HHG

changes retroactively valid from February 1, 2021

valid until October 31, 2021

For the management of the challenges in examinations posed by the coronavirus-SARS-CoV-2 epidemic, the following

Special statute of Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences to address the challenges posed by the Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 epidemic in examinations

is enacted.

§ 1 Area of validity

(1) The following provisions apply to all Bachelor and Master degree programmes of Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences, including the advanced education („Weiterbildung“).

(2) The regulations of this special statute have priority over possible contradictory regulations of the General Provisions for Examination Regulations (ABPO) of Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences as well as over subject-related Special Provisions („Besondere Bestimmungen der Prüfungsordnung“), unless otherwise stated explicitly.

§ 2 Preparatory internship for studies („Vorpraktikum“)/ proof of language skills

(1) If an internship has to be proven for enrollment, this regulation is not considered and students should have to be enabled to prove this intership until a period of time which had to be predefined by the faculty.

(2) If language skills which must be proven before admission to studies cannot be provided due to Corona, this does not lead to exclusion from the procedure, but a deadline appropriate to the situation must be set for submission. If the evidence is not submitted within the set deadline, the student will be excluded from further examinations.

(3) If the studies are started without the required proof and the actually existing language skills are not sufficient, this is irrelevant in terms of examination law.

§ 3 Forms of learning and teaching

(1) Deviating from the module handbooks, the courses take place preferably online and without presence.

(2) The university is entitled to directly convert events to digital formats or to create follow-up or transitional arrangements if local infection conditions do not permit presence.

§ 4 Examination forms and duration

Deviating from the examination formats which have been determined in the module handbooks, other examinations forms can be agreed upon. The same applies for the duration of the examination achievement. The decision is to be made by the person responsible for the module in consultation with the Examination Board, more specifically its chairperson, and the students have to be given due notice of it in an appropriate way. The changed examination forms have to be reported to the Vice President in written form.

§ 5 Participation in examinations

(1) Participation in examinations is not mandatory as of the summer semester 2020. This applies even if the examination date is determined as requested by the student, for ex. in accordance with § 6 paragraph 3 sentence 2.

(2) Compulsory registrations for examinations are suspended as of the summer semester 2020.

(3) If an admission requirement is still missing for an examination (e.g. missing credit points, consecutive), the head of the examination board of your faculty must check whether admission can be granted in individual cases subject to reservations. There is no legal entitlement to this. If admission is granted, the grade will not be entered until the reservation has been removed.

(4) Regulations on failed attempts for the winter semester 2020/2021 and the summer semester 2021: Examinations which have been taken and not passed and which can no longer be repeated are deemed not to have been taken; the failure to take a corresponding examination is not detrimental. Excluded from this regulation are attempts at cheating or any other serious violation of examination regulations which was the reason for failing the examination.

(5) Sentence 4 shall also apply, upon application, to examinations that were taken or should have been taken in the summer semester of 2020. The application must be submitted March 3, 2021 at the latest.

§ 6 Written and oral (supplementary) examinations, online examinations

(1) examinations are held in presence in compliance with the rules of (social) distance and hygiene.

(2) Oral examinations can also be held as video conference. A term paper with a short online processing time is also possible as a form of examination.

(3) Oral supplementary examinations („MEP“) are not set as of the summer semester 2020 by the university. Upon the student's request, an examination date can be set which takes place in presence in compliance with the rules of (social) distance and hygiene. In this special examination, the immediate impression of the examinee is essential, wherefore a video conference is not accepted.

(4) Electronic distance examinations („Elektronische Fernprüfungen“) may be conducted in accordance with the Ordinance on the Conduct of Electronic Distance Examinations of the HMWK (Hessian State Ministry for Higher Education, Research and the Arts) dated December 8, 2020, published in the GVBl (Law and Regulation Gazette) on December 21, 2020, p. 944 f, insofar as face-to-face examinations cannot be conducted or cannot be conducted for all students due to restrictions and obstacles resulting from a significant incidence of infection. The requirements of this regulation must be observed.

§ 7 Withdrawal

(1) Withdrawal from an examination is possible without giving reasons until entering the examination room. The examination is considered to have started when handing out the examination papers and afterwards a withdrawal can only be made in accordance with § 16 Para. 2 ABPO.

(2) In the case of examinations that extend over a longer period of time (e.g. homework with longer processing times, projects), the withdrawal period ends seven calendar days after issuing the assignment in accordance with § 14 Para. 4 Sentence 6 ABPO. A withdrawal from the thesis can be made within the first third of the processing time according to § 22 para. 6 sentence 1 ABPO. After expiration of the withdrawal periods according to sentences 1 and 2, a withdrawal can only be made according to § 16 paragraph 2 ABPO. (3) With examinations that can no longer be repeated, withdrawal is possible at any time, missing a respective examination is not detrimental.

§ 8 Compensation for disadvantages (concerning students in special circumstances)

(1) Students who can prove that they have to take care of their children themselves due to the restrictions in childcare and schools caused by Corona will have processing times, deadlines and important dates individually determined by the Examination Board in consideration of the special circumstances.

(2) The regulations regarding the compensation for disadvantages stay intact.

§ 9 Compensation for disadvantages concerning the practical semester/ internships

(1) Disruptions or termination of the practical semester due to Corona are not considered as failed attempt („Fehlversuch“).

(2) Upon the student's request it is to check whether the duly realisation can be recognized despite the termination, if the absence („Ausfallzeit“) of knowledge transfer is not opposed to the successful execution of the internship. This decision is to be made by the supervisor of the internship.

(3) If a positive decision in accordance with paragraph 2 is impossible, the already completed practical work/ internship is to be recognized upon request. The students are to be informed about this matter in an appropriate way.

(4) If, due to Corona, the completion of the practical period is only possible in small parts or at a later point in time, this must be taken into consideration.

(5) Practical content can also be completed through online formats or equivalent services, provided that the competence and qualification objective can be achieved. The decision on this is made by the internship supervisor.

§ 10 Compensation for disadvantages concerning a semester abroad

In cases of interruptions and terminations caused by Corona, the departmental coordinators („Auslandsbeauftragte“) are to check if achievements of the semester abroad can be recognized completely or partly according to the BBPO (Special Provisions for Examination Regulations). The students have to be informed about this matter in an appropriate way.

§ 11 Compensation for disadvantages concerning thesis; colloquia

(1) The thesis is considered as submitted in due time, if it was received duly in digital form.

(2) The print version is to be handed in later. The deadlines for the subsequent submitting depend on the current Corona-caused restrictions.

(3) The colloquia can be realized as video conference.

§ 12 Entry into force/ expiry

These Articles of Association shall enter into force retroactively as of May 1, 2020.

The version dated January 29, 2021 is repealed.

The special statute shall expire on October 31, 2021.

Darmstadt, February 4, 2021

Prof. Dr. Ralph Stengler

President