

TH Wildau Hochschulring 1 15745 Wildau

To the attention of
all incoming exchange students
at TH Wildau, winter semester 2020-21

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Impact of COVID-19 on your upcoming exchange semester at TH Wildau

Dear student

We hope this message finds you well and in good health. With this letter, we would like to inform you about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on your upcoming exchange semester at our university.

Current situation in Wildau, Brandenburg and Berlin

In Germany, the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) is responsible for following up the COVID-19 pandemic. Daily situation reports are available on <https://www.rki.de/covid-19>

The number of COVID-19 cases in the states of Berlin and Brandenburg and the district of Dahme-Spreewald can be followed here: <https://corona.rki.de/>

As of 23 June 2020, the situation is as follows:

Region	Total cases	Cases / 100.000 inhabitants	Total deaths
State of Brandenburg	3.407	135,6	164
State of Berlin	7.916	217,2	211
District Dahme-Spreewald	252	149,1	8

In the District of Dahme-Spreewald, where TH Wildau is located, the number of new cases in the last 7 days amounts to 0,6 per 100.000 inhabitants.

The city of Wildau has a public health centre at which COVID-19 testing is possible. The neighbouring city of Königs Wusterhausen hosts a fully operational hospital.

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Safety measures in public life

The following safety measures are currently in place:

- Supermarkets and stores can only be accessed when wearing a face mask.
- Public transport can only be used when wearing a face mask.
- In case the number of new COVID-19 cases exceeds 50 per 100.000 inhabitants in a specific region during the last 7 days, the region automatically goes in lockdown.
- Persons with (some of) the COVID-19 symptoms are requested not to leave their accommodation and get in touch with the regional health office (Gesundheitsamt), so that testing and proper treatment can be arranged.

Safety measures on campus

TH Wildau has set up a crisis management committee to continuously monitor the pandemic and its impact on the university. The following safety measures are currently in place:

- All university buildings may only be accessed when wearing a face mask.
- Social distance (1,5m) must be kept on campus at all times.
- The university canteen remains closed.
- Written exams may only take place when keeping in mind strict safety measures (social distancing, disinfection and ventilation of rooms, ...).
- Disinfection spray is available in all toilets, washing and disinfecting your hands repeatedly is obligatory.
- Persons with (some of) the COVID-19 symptoms are requested not to come to the campus.

Semester timeline

- You must arrive in Wildau between 7 and 25 September 2020. Please note that in case you arrive after 5pm or during the weekend, we will not be able to give you your keys for the student residence. The International Office will be able to welcome you on weekdays from 9am till 5pm.
- Our Orientation week will take place from 28 September till 2 October 2020. Attendance is mandatory. We will inform you whether the event will take place through online or on campus at the beginning of September at the very latest.
- Teaching will begin on 5 October 2020, lectures end on 30 January 2021.
- From 24 December 2020 till 3 January 2021, there will be no classes because of the Christmas break.
- Exams will take place between 1 and 20 February 2021.

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Teaching format

The teaching during the upcoming winter semester will mainly take place using digital formats. Only a very limited number of lectures/laboratory work will take place face-to-face on the campus. Should the situation worsen, all teaching will be moved online and the university buildings closed for students. All necessary preparations have been completed so to be able to move to digital teaching and learning swiftly.

Traveling to Germany, immigration

Should you need a visa for traveling to Germany, please note that the German embassies are not opened at this moment. We strongly recommend you to check with the German embassy/visa centre in your home region/country so to apply for the visa for studying in Germany as soon as possible.

At this moment, students traveling to Germany from countries which are not Member State of the European Union (and Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and the UK) have to undergo a quarantine (in their student residence) for two weeks after having entered the country. Please note that in case you must undergo a quarantine, you should complete this before the beginning of the Orientation week. During the quarantine, you are not allowed to leave your room at any time.

When traveling to Germany, we strongly suggest you carry your invitation letter from TH Wildau with you (even if you come from inside the EU/Schengen area), so that you can prove the reason of traveling to the authorities at all times.

Accommodation

Please note that rental contracts for student accommodation will begin on 1 September 2020 and end on 28 February 2021, even if you only travel to Wildau by mid-September and leave at the beginning of February 2021. Rental contracts with a specified term cannot be cancelled before the end of that term. All student residences have Internet access; tenants are required to pay their rent by bank transfer.

Health insurance

Please note that all international students must have sufficient health insurance should they decide to travel to Wildau and start studying at our university. Non-EU students will have to become member of a public German health insurance fund

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and pay monthly membership fees (even if at some point during the semester the student decides to return home). If students only follow lectures in Wildau and do never travel to Wildau, public German health insurance coverage is not required.

Further information

Should you have any further questions regarding the impact on COVID-19 on your stay at our university, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the International Office at TH Wildau via e-mail to incoming@th-wildau.de.

Our International Office continues to offer limited face-to-face support and orientation. Our staff will be fully available remotely. Please note that consultation hours at the International Office have been cancelled, students are asked to get in touch through e-mail or by phone. In-person appointments at the Office are possible, but only upon reservation.

In the meantime, we wish you good health and look forward to welcoming you in Wildau!

Kind regards, and stay safe!



Simon Devos-Chernova