

Dear Systems Engineering students,

In view of the corona pandemic and the resulting special conditions for studying in the summer semester, the department's professors have agreed today on the further procedure, about which we would like to inform you. The basis is the Saarland State Ordinance to Combat the Corona Pandemic of April 7, 2020 (there it says in §8 Para. 1: "Study and teaching activities in the form of attendance including all attendance exams will be suspended until May 4, 2020.") as well as information about the [teaching activities of the university](#) .

We have agreed the following key points:

- In view of the shortened semester (start of the courses on May 4, 2020, end of the courses on July 17, 2020), **the lecturers will reduce the scope of the courses relevant to the examination appropriately.** We also provide you with documents for self-study (e.g. scripts, lecture slides) for the contents of the courses that are not relevant to the examination. There will be additional documents available for the course content (commented lectures, teaching videos) to support or compensate for the (missing) face-to-face events. You can get more information from the lecturers.
- You can usually find **current information on individual courses**, if they can be planned at all, **on the homepage of the responsible chairs**. Please inform yourself and register for the courses where necessary (for example to be able to obtain access data for the lecture documents). In some cases, documents are already online so that you can use the time until the start of the courses for preparation or self-study.
- Since we have to assume that even after May 4, face-to-face courses will at best be possible to a limited extent, **a large part of the teaching must be covered by online offers.** The lecturers will offer **interactive formats (webinars, practice chats, etc.) in the times originally specified in the course catalog.** Arrangement of additional dates is possible if this does not lead to conflicting dates with other courses. The majority of the courses will be made available for download so that you can freely allocate your time to self-study. **If you do not have a suitable computer to use these offers, please contact Prof. Schütze (schuetze@imt.uni-saarland.de); we can provide older computers / laptops on loan to a limited extent.**
- Events where you have to be physically present, especially lab courses, can only be planned if the boundary conditions for this are given. As soon as face-to-face events are possible again, these events are planned and offered with priority. This applies in particular to the engineering lab course in Systems Engineering (Bachelor). We endeavor to provide you with reliable information early on, but you still need to be patient at the moment.
- According to the current status, **exams will only be possible again from May 4, 2020. For the period April 27, 2020 - May 3, 2020** scheduled examinations are subject to a - still outstanding - special approval of the responsible ministry. The university asked the responsible ministry for this approval a long time ago. To date, this approval has not been obtained; Reliable planning of exams at the end of April is therefore not possible. Examinations that have already been scheduled may have to be canceled at short notice. Therefore, inform yourself regularly on the websites of the organizing chairs.
- In order to avoid an additional burden, we have decided that **during the lecture period from May 4 to July 17, 2020 no exams will be scheduled.** The exams that are still outstanding after the winter semester will be scheduled at the beginning of the lecture-free period from July 17, the regular exams of the summer semester afterwards. For this purpose, a common schedule will be agreed upon in order to avoid schedule conflicts as best as possible. Since the lecture period of the coming winter

semester should not start prior to November 1, the examination period is somewhat longer and we can and want to use it for this. We will announce exam dates as early as possible, but always conditionally, that e.g. large presence tests are allowed at all.

- **Oral exams are not affected by this**; they can be carried out from May 4 and will be scheduled by the chairs as before or individually agreed with the examiners. Our examination boards have decided that oral exams can also be carried out as online exams if the relevant conditions are met.
- **Recognition of special achievements in the context of the corona crisis**: If you - whether alone or in a team - provide special assistance in the current situation, e.g. through voluntary work in a hospital or nursing home, this can be recognized as part of the elective as general studies (e.g. in the Bachelor Systems Engineering with up to 6 CP, with a time expenditure of 30 h / CP). **If you have an idea for a professionally oriented project in connection with the corona pandemic or if you are already actively involved in one**, e.g. development of an app, 3D printing of face masks, technical support for companies etc., **this can possibly be recognized as a team project or seminar**. To count for a team project or seminar in Systems Engineering, it is important to use engineering methods or to apply specialist knowledge to make a positive contribution to coping with the pandemic or its consequences. For recognition, please either contact the professor responsible for the subject or the examination board of your degree program. The final decision on the type and scope of the recognition is always in the responsibility of the respective examination board.

Further information:

- In order to facilitate online teaching, the university has purchased campus licenses of **Microsoft Teams** as well as **Office365 ProPlus**, with this webinars and online exercises can be offered; furthermore hizCloud provides a sync & share service.
- In addition, the university has set up a **corona aid fund for students**. The fund supports Saarland University students who, **because of the corona pandemic**, are in financial trouble, which jeopardizes the continuation of their studies. The university here works closely with the Studentenwerk im Saarland e.V. and the AStA. [Further information and application form.](#)

Despite everything, we wish you a good start to a successful summer semester!

The professors in Systems Engineering (April 16, 2020)