

Statutes on special regulations at Hof University of Applied Sciences due to the COVID 19 pandemic

From 22 April 2020*

Based on Article 13, Paragraph 1, Sentence 2, Article 43, Paragraph 5, Sentence 2 and Article 51, Paragraph 1, Sentence 1 of the Bavarian Higher Education Act - BayHSchG - (BayRS 2210-1-1-WFK), Hof University of Applied Sciences enacts the following statutes:

§ 1

Purpose of the Articles of Association, General Clause

(1) ¹The purpose of these bylaws is to help meet the collective challenges associated with the COVID 19 pandemic by modifying otherwise applicable bylaws without more than unavoidably affecting study, teaching, and examination at Hof University of Applied Sciences. ²In addition, the statutes are intended to support a sustainable continuation of the innovation processes in the aforementioned areas, which have been accelerated by leaps and bounds as a result of the pandemic.

(2) In the performance of their duties, particularly in the interpretation of undefined legal terms and the exercise of discretionary powers, all active members of the university shall endeavor to avoid, as far as possible, any disadvantages for students threatened as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, but without, for example, overcompensation.

§ 2

Courses

(1) ¹Courses specified in the study and examination regulations may be replaced in the module handbooks by courses of a different type and scope. ²In particular, the possibilities of the IT solutions used by the university are used for virtual teaching offers.

(2) With regard to information pursuant to paragraph 1, sentence 1, module handbooks may be amended without time restriction insofar as this is necessary or expedient in order to ensure teaching under the respective circumstances.

§ 3

Examinations and admission requirements for examinations

(1) ¹The number and form of the module examinations regulated in the study and examination regulations shall be specified in the module handbooks in a deviating manner insofar as this is necessary or expedient in order to take account of the special circumstances, in particular the conditions of virtual

* As amended by the second amendment to the Articles of Incorporation. This version shall apply from March 15, 2021.

teaching; irrespective of this, they may also be specified in a deviating manner if this serves the purpose of testing in accordance with § 1 paragraph 2 sentence 1 BayFEV. ²In doing so, the principles of competency-based testing are to be implemented as far as possible. ³Computer-based examinations of any kind are permissible under the aforementioned conditions, provided they are taken with the help of the IT solutions used by the university. ⁴In particular, online assignments or case studies, synchronous or asynchronous presentations, e-portfolios with learning outcomes including reflective commentary, proctored oral and written examinations, open book online tests, as well as examinations using the answer-choice method (taking into account the usual requirements for validity, reliability and defined responsibilities) can be considered. ⁵The above sentences apply accordingly to admission requirements for examinations; the module handbooks may also stipulate that, in deviation from the SPO, no admission requirements for examinations are required.

(2) ¹With regard to information according to paragraph 1 sentence 1, module handbooks can be changed up to four weeks after the beginning of the semester; § 3 paragraph 1 sentence 2 BayFEV remains unaffected. ²Sentence 1 half-sentence 1 shall apply mutatis mutandis to changes pursuant to paragraph 1 sentence 5 half-sentence 1; a waiver of admission requirements shall not be subject to any time restrictions, but may not be reversed.

§ 4

Deadlines for final theses

¹Deadlines for submission of theses extended by six weeks. ²The possibility of extending the deadline for individual reasons in accordance with Section 13, Paragraph 1, No. 7, Sentence 3 of the APO remains unaffected; the extensions of the deadline in accordance with Sentence 1 are not counted towards the maximum period of two months applicable under this provision.

§ 5

Additional second retests, fourth attempt

(1) ¹Modules for the completion of which students have taken an examination or a first resit examination in the summer semester 2020 shall not be taken into account in the application of Section 11 (3) and (4) APO.

(2) ¹In one of the modules for the completion of which students have undergone or are undergoing an examination or re-examination as of the summer semester 2020, they are entitled to a third re-examination. ²They shall choose in which module they wish to make use of this provision by registering, if necessary, for a third resit examination at the end of that module. ³The third resit examination must be taken within a period of twelve months after the result of the assessment of the previous resit examination has been announced.

§ 6

Mandatory study abroad and internship semesters in bachelor's degree programs

(1) Students in bachelor's degree programs who would have been scheduled to take a required study abroad or internship semester can postpone these study sections and continue their studies in Hof instead, without having to comply with the otherwise applicable admission restrictions.

(2) ¹If a practical semester according to paragraph 1 is the last semester of study to be completed by the students concerned, they can replace it under the conditions of the following paragraph by preparing an academically demanding research paper, study or similar, which has a high practical relevance and whose workload in credits corresponds to the scope of the practical semester it replaces, i.e. 30 credits. ²If the relevant SPO stipulates that the Bachelor's thesis must also be written during the practical semester and, if applicable, that further proof of performance must be provided, the requirement for the aforementioned further proof of performance shall not apply and the work in accordance with sentence 1 shall constitute the Bachelor's thesis.

(3) ¹Paragraph 2 only applies if the students concerned apply for this and, in particular, provide suitable evidence to show that they are unlikely to be able to complete the scheduled practical semester despite their own intensive efforts due to the pandemic. ²The application must be addressed to the examination board of the respective degree program.

§ 7

Master's internships, Internships in postgraduate master programs

(1) ¹If the relevant SPO stipulates that the Master's thesis must generally be written within the framework of a related internship, the students concerned may also write such theses in whole or in part independently of a concrete operational problem and therefore outside of an internship, if the application relevance of the thesis is nevertheless ensured and the topic is suitable for a special theoretical in-depth study. ²An application to the board of examiners, which may otherwise be required, is not necessary. ³The first examiner of the Master's thesis is responsible for compliance with the requirements specified in sentence 1 and the total workload for the module.

(2) ¹In master's degree programs that require further education, internships can be replaced in whole or in part by the completion of academically demanding research papers, studies, or the like that have a high practical relevance. ²The responsible examination board shall determine the details.

§ 8

Credit Hurdles

¹If access to modules, including the thesis, or nomination for study abroad is dependent on the acquisition of a certain number of credits, if applicable from a certain study section, this applies with the following proviso: First, it must be determined how many credits the student would have had to acquire from the summer semester 2020 onwards, based on the average of all semesters in which credits of the type in question are to be acquired in the scheduled course of study. ²The admission hurdle or nomination

requirement shall be deemed to have been met if the necessary credits were acquired on average in the semesters prior to the summer semester 2020 and at least half of them were acquired on average from the summer semester 2020 onwards. ³Insofar as admission requirements for modules are not based on a specific number of acquired credits, but on the completion of specific modules or all modules of a specific study section, this requirement shall remain unaffected in principle; the responsible examination board shall decide on exceptions in accordance with § 1 paragraph 2.