Statutes of the University of Stuttgart to supplement the Examination Regulations of the University for the duration of the Corona Pandemic

May 6, 2020

On the basis of § 19 Paragraph 1 Sentence 9 and 10, § 32 Paragraph 2 of the Landeshochschulgesetz (law on higher education in Baden-Württemberg) dated January 1, 2005 (GBI. p. 1), last amended by the law dated March 13, 2018 (GBI. p. 85), the Rector of the University of Stuttgart approved the following statute on May 6, 2020.

The Rector of the University of Stuttgart agreed on this statute on May 6, 2020 in accordance with § 32 (3) Sentence 1 of the Landeshochschulgesetz, reference number 7821.0.

§ 1 Purpose and scope

Due to the regulation of the state government on infection prevention measures against the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus (Corona Regulation), restrictions relating to the holding of courses and examinations have been in place since March 17, 2020 for the purpose of protecting against infection. The following provisions supplement the study and exam regulations of the University of Stuttgart for the duration of the restrictions in connection with the corona pandemic. They should compensate for the disadvantages incurred by the students.

§ 2 Oral examinations by video conference

(1) Contrary to the provisions of the exam regulations, oral module examinations and oral continuations of a retaken exam can be held electronically via a video and sound connection (video conference/video telephony), if in-person oral examinations are not permitted due to the currently valid version of the regulation of the state government on infection prevention measures against the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus (Corona Regulation) or on request of the student if he or she cannot take part for reasons beyond their control. Reasons beyond their control include travel restrictions and quarantine measures in particular.

(2) Carrying out oral examinations via a video and sound connection (video conference/video telephony) requires the consent of both the candidate, through signing one of the forms provided by the university for this purpose, as well as of the examiner. The consent must be attached to the minutes of the examination.
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(3) The use of a video and sound connection is dependent on a stable and reliable connection, as short a time delay in the transmission as possible, as well as the ability of the candidate and the examiner to see and hear one another throughout the course of the examination.

(4) The examiner shall specify the details of the place, content and conduct of the electronic examination and must ensure that the examination process is carried out in the correct manner. The examiner shall establish the identity of the candidate before the beginning of the examination by means of an identification document that unambiguously establishes the identity of the candidate.

(5) In the event of disruption to the video and sound transmission, with the result that the examination cannot be conducted with regard to the requirement for fairness and equal opportunities in the examination proceedings, the examiner may abort the examination. The relevant decision shall be taken by the examiner according to his or her best judgment.

(6) Carrying out oral examinations by video conference, as well as any disruption to the video and sound transmission or cancellation of the examination due to technical problems must be stated in the minutes of the oral examination.

(7) Recording the video examination is strictly forbidden. The examiner shall inform the candidate of this no later than at the beginning of the examination.

(8) Provided that Paragraphs 1 to 7 do not contain any additional conditions or derogations, the provisions of the respective regulations for carrying out modular examinations shall otherwise apply.

(9) Paragraphs 1 to 7 likewise apply for oral examinations and presentations as part of academic achievements and course-related examinations as well as term papers and theses. Disruptions to the conduct of the examination in the sense of Paragraphs 5 and 6 must also be confirmed in writing by the examiner if no minutes of the examination need to otherwise be prepared for the respective academic achievements and examinations.

(10) Provided that examinations pursuant to Paragraphs 1 and 9 cannot be held in person due to the Corona Regulation, the examiner will inform the candidate within 14 days of the examination date that the examination shall be carried out in electronic form via a video and sound connection (video conference/video telephony). In this case, according to the provisions of the examination
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regulations it is possible for a candidate to withdraw from an examination for which they have already registered without giving a reason up to seven days before the set examination date. This also applies to retakes and course-related examinations.

§ 3 Notification and changes to the form of examination for graded and non-graded coursework or course assessments, including preliminary requirements, course-related examinations and written module examinations

(1) In accordance with the provisions of the exam regulations of the University of Stuttgart, the course lecturer must announce the expected time, form and scale of the studies or the course-related examination to all students taking the course at the beginning of the semester. By way of derogation from this and from any regulations in the module descriptions, the course lecturer may also announce any changes to the expected time, form and scale of the studies or the course-related examination after the beginning of the semester, if the studies or the course-related examination cannot be carried out in the form announced at the beginning of the semester due to the currently valid version of the regulation of the state government on infection prevention measures against the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus (Corona Regulation) for the purpose of protecting against infection. Students must be given appropriate notice about any changes of this nature.

(2) Insofar as the exam regulations allow for written examinations to be replaced by oral examinations, students must be informed about a change in the form of examination at least 14 days before the date of the written examination.

§ 4 Extension of the time limit for theses, term papers, research projects, homework assignments and seminar papers

The deadlines for theses, term papers, research projects, homework assignments and seminar papers can be extended beyond the deadlines stipulated in the exam regulations and module descriptions if this is necessary to compensate for disadvantages caused by the corona pandemic. These disadvantages particularly include the closure of libraries and computer pools, as well as the interruption of experimental work due to the closure of buildings. The length of the additional extension should not exceed the length of time during which the disadvantage exists. The decision to extend the deadline is made by the responsible department in accordance with the exam regulations (the chair of the Examination Committee or the examiner) at the request of the student.
§ 5 Disadvantage compensation for students who are unable to take part in in-person examinations

(1) If students cannot take part in an in-person examination for reasons beyond their control, they may be permitted to provide equivalent academic achievements in another form if they request to do so, subject to the decision of the chair of the Examination Committee working in consultation with the examiner. This decision is at the discretion of the chair of the Examination Committee. Reasons beyond the students’ control may include travel restrictions and quarantine measures in particular.

(2) Paragraph 1 shall not apply if an oral examination is held in the form of a video conference in accordance with § 2 at the request of the candidate and with the consent of the examiner.

§ 6 Scope of the master’s module taken in advance

(1) If the bachelor examination regulations of the University of Stuttgart allow master’s modules worth a total of 24 ECTS credits to be taken in advance, contrary to the provisions of the exam regulations in the summer semester 2020 up to 54 ECTS credits from a master’s degree course named in the respective bachelor examination regulations can be taken in advance.

(2) Contrary to Paragraph 1, students of art education who are studying their academic subject at the University of Stuttgart, master's modules may be taken in advance worth a total of up to 24 ECTS credits. For students in the teaching degree program who wish to study an extended master’s degree, the number of master’s modules which may be taken in advance will be increased from 69 ECTS credits to 99 ECTS credits.

(3) The Rectorate shall be entitled to extend the provisions of Paragraph 1 and 2 by one semester if this is necessary to compensate for disadvantages caused by the corona pandemic.
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§ 7 Entry into force

These statutes shall enter into force on the day after their publication in the Official Announcements of the University of Stuttgart. They will become invalid at the end of the winter semester 2020/21 if they have not been annulled in full or in part before this date.

Stuttgart, May 6, 2020
Prof. Wolfram Ressel (Rector)