

**Open Letter of the members of the Students councils of Saxony Anhalt (SRK St) about the summer semester 2020 at the universities of applied sciences in Saxony Anhalt.**

Dear Ministerpräsident Haseloff,

Dear Minister Willingmann,

Dear members of the Landtag of Saxony Anhalt,

Dear principals of the Universitys of applied sciences of Saxony Anhalt,

We, the SRK (Landesstudierendenvertretung von Sachsen-Anhalt), supported by the students councils of the Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg, the Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, the Hochschule Merseburg, the Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule Halle, the Hochschule Harz, the Hochschule Anhalt and of the Hochschule Magdeburg-Stendal want to speak about the planed actions and steps to be made due to the COVID-19 crisis affecting the summer semester 2020.

All Universitys and other affected groups have big challenges to take. Due to that it will be not possible to guarantee a normal semester or a fair procedure of upcoming exams. A turn in the taken measurements is needed and it will take a lot of help from government officials to help all Universities to overcome this global crisis. Also it will not be possible for a lot of students to participate in classes and exams in a normal way or even just make a normal living due to their jobs being cut away by governmental decisions or the economic situation right now, or not being able to find childcare. At last it is not possible to visit Institutions of the Universities like Libraries or others which are essential to prepare for exams or just the day to day live of a student.

With this in mind we ask the officials to declare the next Semester as an *optional* or *creative Semeste* and also take these following steps:

1. Help to establish “E-Learning” options and the needed infrastructure. These much needed steps weren’t taken in the last years, making it nearly impossible to deliver these online services now in such a short time for the coming summer semester 2020. Also, how should it be possible to replace or digitalise something like lab practises in a scientific field?
2. It is needed to cancel compulsory attendance for all classes due to the different social and economic situations that a lot of students have to face.

Not all Students have the option to participate in online classes and E-learning. Either cause they lack financial or technical recourses or need to take care of their kids because Kindergartens and schools are closed. A normal and fair participation for every student wouldn’t be possible otherwise.

3. Mandatory attendance of exams should be cancelled. For everyone that wants to try it there should be a “free try due to the crisis”. Also we need alternative offers for everyone else that can’t participate in a normal way. This also means that this Semester should not count for everyone’s standard period of study. It must be taken care of that nobody faces disadvantages

4. Financial support in form of a interest-free loan, without further looks into the live and financial situation of every individual must be provided as fast as possible.

Everyone should be able to pay their everyday expenses and be protected from bankruptcy without just turning this problem over to the parents.

Responsible and consequential political steps are needed to overcome this crisis. With all that in mind we call you again to label this semester as an *optional/creative semester*. Right now it is not possible to have a normal semester or be fair to every student. Equal opportunities are not given at this moment!

Sincerely,

Students council of the Universität Magdeburg

Students council of the MLU Halle-Wittenberg

Students council of the HS Merseburg

Students council of the Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule Halle

Students council of the HS Harz

Students council of the HS Magdeburg-Stendal

Students council of the HS Anhalt