

M.Sc. Economics

Leave of absence for covid19 reasons

According to the new "Corona-Regelung der Universität (§34)" and the e-mail from the *Rektor* from 21.04.2020, you can request a special leave of absence for covid19 reasons. This is an exception and will only be possible in this summer semester:

"Students (including first semester students) can take a special leave of absence for the 2020 summer semester. In this case, the semester is counted as a University semester, but not as a subject semester, and therefore does not count towards the standard period of study. During the leave of absence there may be no tuition fees for international students and for students who are taking a second degree, but the semester fee due must be paid.

Students on leave of absence for the 2020 summer semester are allowed to complete study and examination work and to participate in completely digital courses for which there is no limit on the number of persons."

Please check regularly the website of the University about coronavirus for more information on the changes motivated by the coronavirus:

https://www.uni-freiburg.de/universitaet-en/corona?set_language=en

Clarifications:

Eligibility

All students can apply for this special leave of absence. The requirements for the standard leave of absence, which were internship, exchange or sickness, do not apply here.

There is a rule for the standard leave of absence according to which it is not possible to take more than two semesters off. This rule does not apply to the leave of absence for covid19 reasons. All students can take the leave of absence independently of how many semesters they have already been on leave.

Options for students on leave:

The following options apply to all students on leave during SS20, **regardless of whether the leave was for covid19 reasons or for any other reason.**

Courses you can take while you are on leave:

You can only take online classes that do not have a limit on participants (even if their exams are held in person). You cannot take classes that are held in-person or partly in-person. Therefore, you will most likely not be able to take part in seminars if you are on leave but you can confirm this with your supervisor.

All standard lectures during SS20 should in principle be offered online, digitally, not in person. Therefore, students on leave for covid19 reasons should be able to take part in all standard lectures. However, it still needs to be confirmed whether all Chairs will effectively offer all courses digitally. I hope we can confirm this point very soon. If you want to know for sure whether a specific course will be offered online or not, please wait for the confirmation from our side or contact the Chair directly.

UPDATE 30.04.20: Seminars cannot be attended by students on leave of absence, even if the leave of absence was for covid19 reasons, even if the student was already registered for that seminar and even if the instructor offers the seminar entirely in an online form. Seminars are offered to a restricted number of students by definition, otherwise they would not qualify as seminars, and accordingly cannot benefit from the dispositions of the covid19 leave of absence.

~~If you take the leave of absence for covid19 reasons, and you were already registered for a seminar (or a course with presence requirement), you will probably not be able to take part on it.~~

Therefore, we kindly ask you to inform the Chair as soon as your leave is confirmed, so that other students can take your place. It seems there is a big scarcity on seminar places.

Examinations

You are allowed to write exams, as well as register and hand in final theses.

Therefore, you can also write **retake exams** during the leave of absence.

All exams in SS20 will most likely be in-person as usual. Online exams and oral exams via internet are considered too problematic and will most likely not be authorized, although there are some circumstances in which they could be allowed. For additional information on this, contact please the Examination Office.

This means that even if you take the leave of absence and you want to take online lectures, you will most likely still have to **be physically in Freiburg in order to write the exams**.

Exams will follow the covid19 regulations indicated in the email sent by the Examination Office on April 20 with subject "Informationen zu den verschobenen Klausuren des WS 19/20" unless they are superseded by further communications.

If you want to know for sure whether a specific course will be offered online or not, please wait for the confirmation from our side or contact the Chair directly.

University semester vs subject semester

Fachsemester/subject semesters describe the number of semesters you have taken in a specific degree programme. Hochschulsemester/university semesters describe the number of semesters you have taken in total.

For example, if after the completion of two semesters, a Bachelor student switched to an entirely different degree programme (from economics to biology for instance), his/her biology subject semester count would be 1 while the university semester count would be 3.

Effect on the rule of the 30 ECTS after the second semester in order not to be exmatriculated

If you take the leave of absence, the winter semester 20/21 will be your second semester. Therefore, students that were in the 1st semester during WS19/20 who take a semester off in SS20, **will need to have the minimum 30 ECTS for not being exmatriculated by the end of WS2020/21**, not by the end of SS20. This holds also if you take some exams during the leave.

Fees

If you are on leave of absence, you will have to pay fees for 133 EUR for SS2020 but not the 1.500 EUR applicable to non-EU citizens. You can apply for reimbursement, but only for the 1500 EUR, not for the 22 EUR.

Other considerations:

You cannot use the **Semesterticket**, even if you have already bought it. It would be illegal to use it.

You still have the status of a student, you are considered a student on a leave of absence

Visa: I do not know if a visa is required during the leave of absence and I am also not authorized to answer legal questions about visa. Please contact the international admissions office or the immigration office.

Hiwi contracts (update 28.04.2020): You can work as a student assistant (*wissenschaftliche Hilfskraft*) even if you have taken the leave of absence, if your employer considers that the agreed performance can also be delivered during the leave of absence.

How to apply

You find all the information on how to apply here:

https://www.studium.uni-freiburg.de/en/student-services/leave-of-absence?set_language=en

You should apply using this form:

<https://www.studium.uni-freiburg.de/en/student-services/leave-of-absence/docs/application-for-a-leave-of-absence-corona>

Applications for the leave of absence must be sent **before May 11th** to the International Admission Service to your contact person.

Your contact person is based on the first letter of your surname. Here are the contact details, by surname-groups:

A-I: Mr. Brenner (brenner@service.uni-freiburg.de)

J-R: Ms.Domdey (domdey@service.uni-freiburg.de)

S-Z: Ms. Stoia (stoia@service.uni-freiburg.de)