

# TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT ILMENAU

## **Statutes on Special Provisions for Studies, Examinations and Doctorates due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in 2020**

According to §§ 3 paragraph 1, 35 paragraph 1 No. 1 of the Thuringian Higher Education Act (Thüringer Hochschulgesetz (ThürHG)) of 10 May 2018 (GVBl. p. 149), as amended by Article 128 of the Act of 18 December 2018 (GVBl. p. 731) in conjunction with § 4 Thuringian University Fees and Remuneration Act of 21 December 2006 (GVBl. p. 601), as amended by Article 3 of the Act of 10 October 2019 (GVBl. p. 398, 401), the Technische Universität Ilmenau (hereinafter referred to as " university ") issues the following statutes on special provisions for studies, examinations and doctoral studies due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in 2020.

The Senate adopted the Statutes on Special Provisions for Studies, Examination and Doctoral Studies on 9 June 2020. The Rector approved them on 12 June 2020.

### **I. General**

§ [1](#) Scope of the statutes

### **II. Special period of study and non-recognition as part of the standard period of study, admission as a guest auditor, leave of absence**

§ [2](#) Regulations on the standard period of study in the summer semester 2020

§ [3](#) Special period of study and non-recognition for the standard period of study

§ [4](#) Admission as a guest auditor

§ [5](#) Leave of absence

### **III. Studies and examination procedures**

§ [6](#) Suspension of examination and re-examination periods, additional attempt

§ [7](#) Suspension of admission requirements for examinations, provision of examinations, change in the form of examinations

§ [8](#) Repetition of examinations scheduled for winter semester 2019/2020

§ [9](#) Exclusion from participation in courses, final examinations and from the submission of the final thesis

§ [10](#) Theses, time required for the scientific work

### **IV. Doctoral studies**

§ [11](#) Doctoral committee, its meetings

§ [12](#) Academic/scientific debate

### **V. Final provision**

§ [13](#) Validity

## I. General

### § 1 Scope of the statutes

(1) In deviation from the existing university regulations, these statutes contain special provisions for studies, examinations and doctoral studies, which are necessary due to imposed measures in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic 2020 in order to maintain the academic and doctoral system and to compensate for disadvantages that students and doctoral candidates may experience due to restrictions in the regular course of studies.

(2) The Presidential Board is authorised to decide at the end of the 2020 summer semester whether, due to continuing restrictions on the regular academic programme due to imposed measures in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic 2020 virus, the provisions of these statutes are to be extended to subsequent semesters or submitted to the Senate for a new resolution for adjustment.

(3) All references to persons and functions in these statutes apply equally to all genders.

## II. Special period of study and non-recognition as part of the standard period of study, admission as a guest auditor, leave of absence

### § 2 Regulations on the standard period of study in the summer semester 2020

In order to compensate for disadvantages caused by restrictions on the regular course of studies in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, students have the possibility under these statutes to alternatively submit an application either

1. for the summer semester 2020 not being credited to the standard period of study (§ 3)  
or
2. on leave of absence (§ 5).

### § 3 Special period of study and non-recognition for the standard period of study

(1) Due to the restrictions and changes to the regular course of study caused by the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in 2020, the summer semester 2020 shall be considered a special study period within the meaning of § 52 (5) sentence 1 ThürHG.

(2) According to § 52 paragraph 5 sentence 1 ThürHG and upon application by students, the summer semester 2020 shall not be credited to the standard period of study applicable to them if students declare in their application that they are not able or have not been able to follow their studies without restriction during this period of time for the following reasons:

1. missing access to IT-supported teaching and examination offers,
2. exclusion from participation in the course of study and from final examinations and the completion of the final thesis or parts thereof in accordance with § 9 paragraph 1 of these statutes as well as further decrees of the university,
3. personal prevention from attending classroom events outside the university due to imposed measures in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic 2020,
4. missing virtual course offer in the chosen major,
5. being personally prevented from attending classroom events/face-to-face meetings due to own special protection requirements.

(3) The application under subsection 2 shall be submitted to the office responsible for the admission and enrolment procedure at the university using the appropriate form and must be received no later than four weeks after the end of the 2020 summer semester. There is no need to provide any proof.

(4) When the summer semester 2020 is not considered part of the standard period of study under subsection (2) above, it shall count as a university semester but not as a semester of study. During the semester, academic achievements and examinations as well as final theses (Bachelor's, Master's and diploma theses) may be completed.

(5) The effects of non-recognition under subsection 2 on the individual rights of applicants in relation to institutions and bodies outside the university during and after their studies (e.g. BAföG assistance, residence permits, scholarships, child benefits) shall be the sole responsibility of the student; advice from the relevant competent authorities is recommended.

#### **§ 4 Admission as a guest auditor**

(1) Prospective international students who have been admitted to the university but are unable to enter the country for the purpose of studying or preparing for studies in the 2020 summer semester due to imposed measures in connection with the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in 2020 and who are therefore unable to enrol or participate in preparatory measures offered by the university for formal reasons, may be admitted as guest auditors in accordance with § 13 Enrolment Regulations of the University (ImmaO) upon application.

(2) Guest auditors under subsection 1 shall have the right to attend courses in the major or preparatory courses offered by the university for the major they have been admitted to. Any other courses offered by the university shall be excluded.

(3) Otherwise, the Provisions of § 13 ImmaO (Enrolment Regulations) shall remain unaffected.

## **§ 5 Leave of absence**

The restrictive effects of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic 2020 on the general course of study and examination procedures are considered an important reason for applying for a leave of absence valid for the 2020 summer semester in accordance with § 8 paragraph 1 ImmaO (Enrolment Regulations). A semester of leave approved on this reason is not to be counted towards the maximum number of semesters of leave in accordance with § 8 paragraph 3 sentence 1 ImmaO. In all other respects, the regulations on leave of absence remain unaffected.

### **III. Studies and examination procedures**

## **§ 6 Suspension of examination and re-examination periods, additional attempt**

(1) With effect for the 2020 summer semester, the implementation of periods according to § 19 paragraph 2 sentence 1 PStO-AB (re-examination period) and § 20 PStO-AB (Erstantrittsfrist: the first date by which the student must have passed the module examination for the first time) is suspended. The summer semester 2020 shall not be taken into account when determining whether examinations have been taken on time within the meaning of § 21, paragraphs 1 and 2 PStO-AB (free attempt, grade improvement). Sentences 1 and 2 do not apply to the deadlines according to §§ 20 and 21 PStO-AB if students were on leave of absence in the summer semester 2020 according to § 5 of these statutes or if the summer semester 2020 is not credited to the standard period of study for them according to § 3 of these statutes.

(2) Apart from § 21, paragraph 1 PStO-AB, examinations/graduations taken during the 2020 summer semester shall be deemed not to have been taken upon application by students without giving reasons. The application is to be submitted to the Examination Office in text form with reference to the restriction in the course of studies in the summer semester 2020 due to the virus SARS-CoV2 pandemic until the beginning of the next examination registration period (§16 paragraph 4). Late application is to be accepted if the student has failed to submit the application through no fault of his/her own and if the application is submitted with reasons for the failure to submit the application immediately after the impediment is removed. A taking of an examination according to sentence 1 is not to be credited against the total number of free attempts and attempts to improve grades allowed according to § 21 paragraph 3 PStO-AB.

## **7 Suspension of admission requirements for examinations, provision of examinations, change in the form of examinations**

(1) The organizational structure of the examination procedures shall ensure that, no matter what form the examination takes, imposed measures in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic 2020 are adhered to in order to protect health and reduce the risks of the pandemic.

(2) The module supervisors may suspend admission requirements defined in the module description for final examinations in the 2020 summer semester. This shall be announced in a suitable form and properly documented.

(3) Notwithstanding § 11 paragraph 2 PStO-AB, in the 2020 summer semester, changes in the form of examinations by the module supervisor shall be permissible and must be notified in a suitable form and properly documented by 30 June 2020 at the latest. The deadlines for the publication of the examination schedule and for the registration for examinations according to § 16, paragraphs 2 and 4 shall be cancelled and determined by the Academic Committee. The form of semester-related examinations shall be announced in a timely manner before the beginning of the examination and shall be properly documented.

(4) In the 2020 summer semester, module supervisors may determine several possible forms for the completion of a module or course; a regular form shall be determined. The module supervisor may determine alternative forms in the event that the form determined as regular cannot be adhered to due to imposed measures in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic 2020. The specifications according to sentences 1 and 2 shall be announced in a suitable form and properly documented. The module supervisor shall decide on the concrete form in due time before the start of the examination taking into account the given circumstances and the principle of equal opportunities.

(5) Examinations are to be taken primarily in the form determined in accordance with § 11 paragraph 3 PStO-AB. Module supervisors may determine forms, in particular online formats such as video telephony/video conferencing, which deviate from § 11 paragraph 3 PStO-AB for the provision of final exams in the summer semester 2020 - taking into account paragraph 4 and the principle of equal opportunities - provided that

1. this is necessary due to new forms of teaching, or imposed measures in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in 2020

and

2. this requirement cannot be met with the forms pursuant to § 11 paragraph 3 PStO-AB.

The provisions for a proper examination procedure, such as the protection of the public/non-public nature of examinations and the appointment of examiners, shall also be complied with in the context of examinations in a form determined in accordance with the first sentence.

(6) Supplementary to § 28 paragraph 1 PStO-AB, individual regulations regarding the form of examinations may be made by mutual agreement between the examiner and the student within the framework of the compensation for disadvantages due to the special protection worthiness of the student to be examined in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. The Examination Board shall decide on the granting of compensation for disadvantages in accordance with sentence 1.

(7) In the 2020 summer semester, notwithstanding § 54 (6) ThürHG, students who are not examinees may be excluded from attendance in the case of oral examinations, insofar as this is necessary to comply with imposed measures in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in 2020.

(8) On the basis of § 16 paragraph 3 sentence 1 PStO-AB, paragraphs 1 to 7 apply equally to module examinations for the purpose of repeating them. This shall not affect § 19 paragraph 6 PStO-AB.

### **§ 8 Repetition of examinations scheduled for winter semester 2019/2020**

(1) Final examinations which could not be taken in the winter semester 2019/2020 due to imposed measures in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic 2020 may, as an exception to § 16 paragraph 3 PStO-AB, also be offered during the 2020 summer semester beyond the examination period. The date of the examination must be announced in an appropriate form. The announcement should be made in a timely manner so that registration and the decision on admission to the examination can be made. The registration modalities (form and deadline) will be determined by the module supervisor and announced in a suitable form. Cancellation is permitted up to one day before the date of the examination. After this date, only the withdrawal from the attempt (§ 22 PStO-AB) is possible.

(2) In cases in which, for organisational reasons, it is not possible to arrange a registration period in accordance with paragraph 1, students shall be deemed to have registered for the examination in accordance with paragraph 1 when they take the examination, notwithstanding § 16 paragraph 4 PStO-AB. In these cases, participation in the examination is subject to admission to the examination by the Examination Office. Insofar as an assessment in accordance with the PStO-AB is not to be carried out and announced immediately after completion of the examination, this will only be carried out after the decision on admission to the examination has been made.

## **§ 9 Exclusion from participation in courses, final examinations and from the submission of the final thesis**

(1) Notwithstanding § 3 paragraph 1 and § 7 paragraph 4 PStO-AB, students shall be excluded from participation in the university's courses and examinations and from the completion of the thesis or parts thereof if, in accordance with § 3 paragraph 5 sentence 1 no. 1 and 2 of the Third Thuringian SARS-CoV-2 Containment Measures Ordinance (3rd Thuringian SARS-CoV-2-EindmaßnahmeVO) - if necessary also only in the course of an event or an examination date - if they show symptoms of a COVID-19 disease or any cold-related symptoms not medically clarified by a physician.

(2) Students to whom one of the situations mentioned in paragraph 1 applies must notify the Examination Office responsible for them accordingly by means of a simple declaration in writing.

(3) Exclusion in accordance with paragraph 1 must not be to the students' disadvantage in the further examination procedure; it must be considered when determining examination deadlines in particular.

## **§ 10 Theses, time required for the scientific work**

The processing period stipulated by the Examination and Study Regulations or Examination Regulations - Special Provisions (PStO-BB, PO-BB) for written scientific work in the context of final theses (§ 24 PStO-AB), which are being prepared in the 2020 summer semester, is to be extended by two months upon application with justification of the prevention of processing due to imposed measures in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. The extension in accordance with sentence 1 shall not be credited against the regularly permitted extension period pursuant to § 24 PStO-AB.

## **IV. Doctoral studies**

### **§ 11 Doctoral committee, its meetings**

Within the framework of § 7 paragraph 6 Doctoral Regulations - General Provisions of the University (PromO-AB), meetings of the Doctoral Committee may be held in video conferences for the purpose of complying with imposed measures in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic 2020.

## § 12 Academic/scientific debate

In the 2020 summer semester, the scientific debate according to §§ 9 and 10 PromO-AB for the purpose of complying with imposed measures in the context of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic 2020 can take place online, e.g. as video conference. Sentences 2 and 3 of § 7 paragraph 5 shall apply accordingly.

## V. Final provision

### § 13 Validity

The Statute on Special Provisions for Studies and Examinations due to the SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic 2020 will apply with effect from the 2020 summer semester on the day following its publication in the university's official gazette.

Ilmenau, 12 June 2020

signed by

Univ.-Prof. Dr. rer. nat. habil.

Dr. h. c. mult. Prof. h. c. mult. Peter Scharff

Rector