

“Responsible in-person attendance” at the University of Oldenburg

Framework concept for the winter semester 2021/2022

I. General regulations

General rules

People inside university buildings or premises and on university campuses must behave in such a way as to minimise the potential for infection.

- A general requirement to wear a mask applies in all university buildings and premises.
- People must keep their distance from each other in all university buildings and premises.
- On open-air university sites, people must avoid forming groups where the distancing requirement cannot be met.

Rules relating to warning levels

- Warning levels apply according to resolutions of the federal state or general rulings of the local municipality. According to these regulations, access to specific university areas is restricted to people who have been vaccinated, have recovered from infection, or can present a negative test result (3G rule). For more details, see the room utilisation concept (Annex A).
- The university takes appropriate measures to ensure compliance with the restricted access rules. Central 3G registration points have been set up so that students who have been vaccinated, have recovered from infection, or can present a negative test result can gain access to 3G-restricted areas. When students present evidence of vaccination or recovery from infection and give their consent, a digital token permitting access can be generated which is valid for the entire winter semester. When students present evidence of a negative test result and give their consent, a digital token permitting access can be generated which is valid for the period of validity of the test certificate. For more details, see the 3G concept (Annex B).

II. Regulations for individual areas

Studies and teaching

- As far as possible, study and teaching activities at the university should take place on campus.
- However, depending on the room capacities and the concrete planning of the departments responsible for the individual courses and classes/lectures, organisational and educational reasons may make it expedient to continue to conduct some parts of studies online. The proportions of online teaching differ for individual students depending on the semester, subject and class selections.

Research

- Research activities can continue as usual, depending on the room capacities.

Administration and technical work

- Generally, administration and technical work can take place on campus.
- However, depending on room capacities, remote working will still be necessary in various areas and for individual employees, after consultation with the superior officer. The current "Agreement on Workplace Alternatives During the Coronavirus Crisis" remains valid up to 31 December 2021.

Teaching and other events

- Generally, (teaching) events in university buildings and premises and on outdoor campuses are possible. However, they must be planned, organised and executed in compliance with the valid statutory regulations of the federal state as well as any restrictions determined by the university.
- With regard to the booking of university rooms and open spaces, priority is given to (teaching) events which are related to university activities in research, teaching, studies and administration.

Room utilisation concept

I. General rules

The university lecture halls, meeting rooms and conference rooms are available for on-campus (teaching) events. Generally, no special application for in-person (teaching) events or examination of individual cases are planned. However, to protect attendees, the following restrictions apply to room utilisation in the winter semester 2021/2022:

- For in-person events (not teaching events) in university buildings and premises, the maximum number of participants is 200.
- Teaching events and examinations in university buildings and premises up to a number of 100 participants can take place on campus. The maximum number of participants is determined by the specified room capacity.

Masks must be worn in all lecture halls, classrooms, meeting rooms and conference rooms.

II. Distancing rule

The distancing rule required by the framework concept is implemented in the layout of rooms, i.e. seating, as follows:

- For rooms without fixed seating but with chairs at tables, the distancing rule "one person per table" applies. The chair must be placed at the centre of the table.
- For rooms with movable seating, a minimum distance between seats of one metre must be observed.
- For rooms with fixed seating (lecture halls), only designated seats may be used. A minimum distance of one metre applies.

Clearly visible notices stating the maximum permitted number of people in the room are displayed at the entrances to all (teaching) event, meeting and conference rooms.

Once a room contains the maximum number of occupants, nobody else may enter it.

The people responsible for the (teaching) event, meeting or conference, the supervisors and the attendees are responsible for observing the required distances and for using the designated seats as well as for observing the maximum permitted number of people.

III. 3G-relevant rooms

The entry restriction according to Section 8 Lower Saxony Coronavirus Directive of 24 August 2021 applies for (teaching) events, meetings or gatherings in closed rooms with more than 25 (and up to 1,000) participants.

A room-specific 3G concept applies for (teaching) events, meetings or gatherings at the university. The concept designates rooms in which 3G-relevant (teaching) events may be carried out. These are rooms which are equipped and approved for more than 25 participants. Entry restrictions can only be effective in these rooms.

3G concept

I. Basic information

Statutory regulations for (teaching) events, meetings and gatherings

According to Section 8 of the Lower Saxony Coronavirus Directive of 24 August 2021, from a warning level according to Section of the 3 Lower Saxony Coronavirus Directive, access to (teaching) events, meetings and gatherings must be restricted to people who are vaccinated, have recovered from infection or can present a negative test result (3G rule). This attendance restriction must also be imposed when a general ruling of the municipality determines that the "new infections" figure according to Section 2 (3) Lower Saxony Coronavirus Directive is greater than 50. However, under these conditions, entry is still possible. This means that a full lockdown is no longer planned.

The regulations of the Lower Saxony Coronavirus Directive also apply for all universities in the federal state. Therefore, if a warning level applies or if the municipality issues a general ruling, an attendance restriction to people who have been vaccinated, have recovered from infection or can present a negative test result also applies to (teaching) events, meetings and gatherings at the university if these events include more than 25 (and up to 1,000) participants. If an attendance restriction applies, the university is obliged to actively check evidence of vaccination, recovery from infection or a negative test result.

Statutory regulations for the use of sports facilities in closed rooms, including gyms, swimming baths, saunas and similar facilities as well as for closed rooms in the Botanical Garden

The same regulations according to Section 8 of the Lower Saxony Coronavirus Directive apply for the use of sports facilities in closed rooms, gyms, the swimming bath, saunas and similar facilities. They also apply to the general public who wish to enter closed rooms in the Botanical Garden.

Before use or entry, the staff responsible must actively check evidence of vaccination, recovery from infection or a negative test result.

II. 3G-relevant rooms for (teaching) events, meetings and conferences

A room-specific 3G concept applies for the university. Notices stating the regulations must be displayed at the entrance to rooms for (teaching) events, meetings and conferences which can be used by more than 25 people under observance of the distancing rule. The 3G rules also apply to these rooms.

If a 3G-relevant room is used for an event including a teaching event, meeting or conference with more than 25 participants, entry must be restricted to people who are vaccinated, have recovered from infection or can present a negative test result.

The entry restriction to a 3G-relevant room can be waived if it is ensured that a maximum of 25 people attend the event over its whole duration, despite a nominal capacity of more than 25.

III. 3G checks for all teaching events

Central registration to actively obtain evidence

Evidence of compliance is actively checked at designated points on the Haarentor and Wechloy campuses (3G registration points). There, students can present a vaccination certificate, recovery certificate or negative test result so that they can register for 3G-restricted (teaching) events.

Students must register before they enter the room or participate in a 3G-restricted (teaching) event.

For exceptional cases, the university provides a limited number of coronavirus self-testing kits at the registration points. Students must use them under observation ("2-person check"). If the result is negative, it can be presented to enable registration.

When students present evidence of vaccination or recovery from infection and give their consent, a digital token permitting access can be generated which is valid for the entire winter semester. When students present evidence of a negative test result and give their consent, a digital token permitting access can be generated which is valid for the period of validity of the test certificate.

Checks

The university checks compliance with the 3G entry restriction and is entitled to carry out further, active checks in the 3G-restricted (teaching) events and/or in front of/inside the 3G-relevant rooms.

Violations

Students are expressly prohibited from participating in 3G-restricted (teaching) events without registration. Failure to comply with this rule represents a serious violation which entitles the university to take legal action. Violations also result in an immediate ban from university premises.

IV. 3G checks for events (except teaching events), meetings and gatherings

Active requirement for presentation of evidence

Prior to 3G-restricted (teaching) events, meetings and gatherings, the person responsible or staff members deployed for this purpose control entry by checking evidence of vaccination, recovery or a negative test result.

In the case of internal events, meetings and gatherings with 3G restriction, evidence can be provided immediately before the event by means of a self-test under observation by a second person.

A special rule applies for events (except teaching events), meetings or gatherings for which an admission fee is charged, or if the event (except teaching events), meeting or gathering is financed by third-party funding. Access is possible after testing if the admission fee or third-party funding was provided for the purpose of financing tests.

Violations

Without provision of the required evidence, entry to 3G-restricted (teaching) events, meetings or gatherings is expressly prohibited. Failure to comply with this rule represents a serious violation which entitles the university to take legal action. Violations also result in an immediate ban from university premises.