

Vienna, 08th April 2020

Information of the Rectorate on gradual reinstatement of regular university operations from May 2020 onwards

Dear Madams and Sirs,

We received a letter dated April 7th from the Federal Minister Dr. Faßmann addressed to the rectors of the Austrian private universities. We are pleased with the content of that letter, as it specifies the step-by-step plan for gradual return to normality set by the federal government on April 6th and provides clear guidelines and suggestions for the gradual return of private universities to their normal operations.

SFU will implement the measures summarized in the following points for a gradual return to normal operation. The measures mentioned herebelow have been worked out taking into account the guidelines and suggestions provided in the letter of the Federal Minister:

1. Teaching at the SFU will continue to take place digitally or through “home learning” until the end of June. The digital library is still in operation.
2. Practical lessons that cannot be substituted (e.g. laboratory units, dissection courses, personal development, self-awareness) can be offered in the current summer semester and, if necessary, including the summer months.
3. As far as possible, exams should continue to take place digitally (until the end of June). For final exams, students can be offered the option of choosing to hold exams digitally or in person, if desired, from May 4th onwards. When carrying out personally, the applicable hygiene requirements (distance, number of people, mouth and nose protection) must be observed. (Personal implementation will probably not be possible in all subjects. Details will be determined in the faculties).

4. Also starting from May 4th, the SFU's home office operations will be returned to normal operations.
5. Research can also be started or continued in stages and in compliance with the safety and behavioral rules (hygiene requirements).
6. The respective national / regional regulations apply to the branches of the SFU abroad. They will be informed separately by the rectorate.

The Federal Minister is sending a signal for a gradual restart, which will enable a return to familiar structures and processes, combined with the hope that we can take some of the positive findings and lessons learned from the crisis into our normal university operations.

We wish you and your families Happy Easter!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alfred Pritz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Univ. Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Alfred Pritz
for the Rectorate of SFU