

Vienna, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## **Letter from the Rectorate to students, lecturers and employees of the SFU**

Dear students, dear lecturers, dear employees,

Before the end of the summer semester, I would like to provide you with a short update on the current situation at the SFU and take a look ahead to the winter semester.

### **Situation COVID-19**

Recently, we all have faced times that we have never experienced before.

We have been and we are being threatened by a virus which not only causes disease but also claims life. Fortunately, no one died from the SFU because of the virus, and the few who have been infected have mostly recovered.

Worldwide, more than half of the infected people have recovered by now and the infections in Austria are at a very low level. However, this means that the virus has not disappeared and that the social distancing still makes sense.

We know that this pandemic has raised fears in almost everyone. But we also realize that most have overcome these fears and have even developed new solutions and strategies for their lives.

### **Current status of the summer semester 2020**

The number of new students is developing particularly well in 2020, so the admission interviews will take place throughout the summer. Postponed seminars will also take place throughout the summer. The detailed information gets provided by the respective faculties.

### **The upcoming winter semester 2020/21**

With regard to the upcoming beginning of the winter semester, we are preparing for regular course of study, but we are considering an alternative plan in coordination with the Ministry of Science.

**Words of thanks**

I want to express special thanks to our scientific and administrative staff who have managed to convert teaching to digital teaching with admirable dedication. They all have performed their tasks in teaching as well as in the administrative areas in an exemplary manner.

I would also like to thank the students for their contribution to the digitization of teaching and for their often accurate critical feedback that helps us to optimize digital teaching.

On behalf of the Rectorate of the SFU, I wish you all a great summer!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of two distinct parts. The first part is a cursive, flowing signature, and the second part is a more stylized, blocky signature.

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