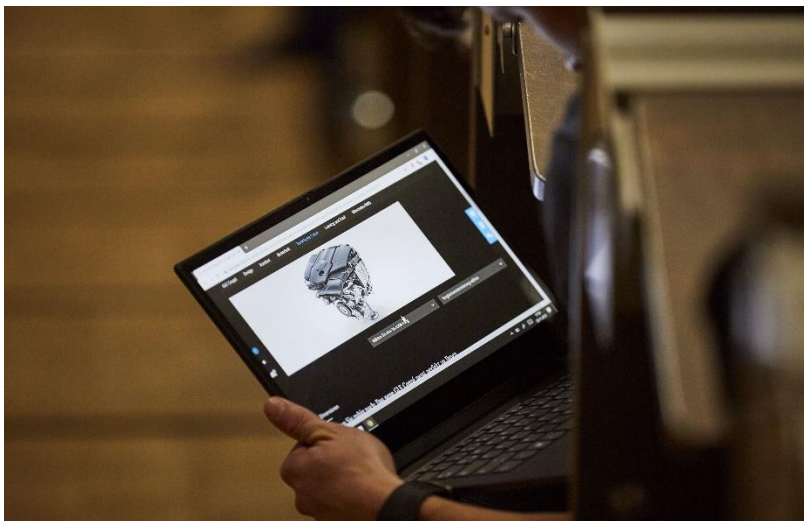


KIT's Summer Semester Will Start Online

Academic Education Operations Will Start with Digital Courses on April 20, 2020



The summer semester at KIT will start with digital courses only. A team of experts is working hard to prepare online teaching. (Photo: Magali Hauser, KIT)

The 2020 summer semester at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) will begin punctually on April 20 with the planned start of the lecturing period – with exclusively digital courses and without students on the campus for the time being. On-campus teaching will start step by step when the legal restrictions will be lifted. Due to the Corona crisis, the state government has suspended academic education operations in the state of Baden-Württemberg until April 19.

“At the moment, we do not know when on-campus teaching will be possible again. However, we at KIT started very early to prepare for the start of the semester with entirely digital courses. This will enable our students to proceed well with their studies in spite of all restrictions,” says Professor Alexander Wanner, KIT Vice-President for Higher Education and Academic Affairs. “Of course, mitigation of the pandemic also is of priority at KIT. As the further development of the epidemic is not known, academic education operations at KIT will be adapted flexibly to the valid infection protection provisions in the next weeks and months.” At the moment, KIT departments and lecturers

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are re-editing the contents for online lectures or seminars. In the summer semester, we want to carry out online, in parts or completely, as many courses as possible. For this purpose, the online services of KIT were and still are complemented by cloud-based services of private providers, such as Microsoft Teams or Zoom, to open up additional communication channels in the short term.

In compliance with the infection protection requirements made by the responsible authorities, it will be possible to organize one-to-one supervision with distances being kept. Oral examinations will take place in the presence of not more than five persons observing distancing regulations, while the public will be excluded.

Stepwise Return to On-campus Teaching

For the stepwise return to standard academic operations, KIT has developed a phased plan that will be implemented in line with the infection protection requirements imposed and recommendations given by the federation, state, and municipality. "As everywhere, we will need much patience," Wanner says. It is impossible at the moment to foresee when students will be able to use study places at the KIT Library or attend courses at lecture halls and laboratories on the campus again.

"We wish to offer our students good academic education also under these special circumstances," Wanner points out. "I am convinced that we will manage these challenges together at KIT in mutual respect, cooperation, and trust."

More information on online teaching options is given by the ZML – Center for Technology-Enhanced Learning of KIT:

<http://www.zml.kit.edu/english/4531.php>

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preservation of our natural basis of life. KIT is one of the German universities of excellence.

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