FAQ: Corona and my Studies

BAföG

Does the Corona-Pandemic and the postponement of my Summer Semester 2020 have an effect on my BAföG?

No. As the Federal Ministry of Education and Research has reported, the postponement of the lecture period does not have any effect on BAföG. Students (whether they are in their first semester or already receiving funds) should not worry that they will no receive any money for March/April. Studying and online courses count as student activity. Ask the BAföG office of the Studierendenwerk Mannheim directly. IMPORTANT: The BAföG application must be turned in in March 2020 (students of the Music and Performing Arts) or April 2020 (students of the Popakademie and the HdWM) if the BAföG-Bescheid (assessment) for Summer Semester 2020 has not already been received.

My parent(s) has/have been affected by the Corona-Crisis; they have a reduced to no income. Can I still receive BAföG?

If your parents not earn less, for example because of their work (Kurzarbeit), then your chances of receiving BAföG or even a higher BAföG grant are greater.

Example Scenario 1:
If you have not previously applied for BAföG because of your parental income, but because your parents earn less, you can apply for BAföG at any time and the current parental income will be taken as a basis with the application for updating (Form 7).

Example Scenario 2:
If you have already received BAföG or have applied but are not receiving because your parents’ income was too high, but now since your parents’ income is lower, you can apply for an updated BAföG (Form 7) and the BAföG office will check the current amount of entitlement and inform you.

The following typically applies: If you have any further questions, ask the BAföG office of the Studierendenwerk Mannheim.
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Does my BaföG entitlement from my parents continue to exist?
Yes. Providing that your parents are still economically capable, your should still be entitled to BAFöG.

Independent studying or online courses/studies also count as study activities, especially in this current situation.

Your parents may have to also accept delays and interruptions in your studies which will result in the extension of alimony payments. In the case of delays and interruptions, the individual cases must be considered and in particular, whether there are any special reasons for the delay. In the present unforeseeable situation, a delay in your studies, if based on official measures, is completely out of your responsibility. However, you should use this lecture-free period as a time for independent study.

I am considering taking a semester of leave for this semester for the Corona-Crisis. What should I consider?
Important: You are not entitled to BAFöG during a leave of absence - which is a break from your studies. Please inform yourself of the financial consequences for taking a semester off will have. For information on the requirements for receiving social benefits according to the Social Security Code II during the semester of your leave of absence, you should contact the social counseling service of the Studierendenwerk. Please be aware: A semester of leave does not count toward your studies.

What will change for students who earn income at institutions currently assisting in the fight against the pandemic?
If during the approved period, income is earned from activity in a health care institution, other institution supporting the fight against the pandemic, or in agriculture, the provisions of §53.1 Sentence 5 BAföG apply accordingly. If the employment is limited to a duration that does not extend to the end of the approved period, then the income that has been earned will be divided by the number of months in which compensation for this employment was earned and not for each month.

To make it worthwhile for these groups of people who work in the health industry, social institutions, and in agriculture, the rules of BAföG have been adjusted.
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According to the current law, the sum of earned income will be offset against the amount of BAföG for the total duration of the approval period. This deduction does not only affect the months of employment. For BAföG recipients who are employed fighting against the pandemic and earn a comparatively high income for only a couple of months, this could lead to the loss of the BAföG entitlement for the entire approval period. This is to be excluded with the new adopted regulations. BAföG recipients should retain their entitlement before and after the compensated employment in working to fight this pandemic. BAföG will be credited only in the months which the recipient earn an income from this activity.

Example Scenario:
Hannah is studying in her third semester and is receiving a monthly grant of 600 € for the period from October 2019 to September 2020. Since the university is currently postponed, she is working as a nursing assistant at the university hospital from March 2020 as part of the BMG-Program to combat COVID 19 and will receive a monthly net income of 1,500 €. She will be employed until August 2020.

Calculation of BAföG entitlement:
Due to the new regulations from §53.2 BAföG, her additional income from working as a nursing assistant will only be taken into account from March 2020. For the period from October 2019 to February 2020 and for September 2020, the BAföG entitlement remains unchanged at 600€ a month. Her BAföG entitlement will only cease in the months from March to August 2020 due to her new monthly income.

Information, Contacts, and Service Hours:

[www.stw-ma.de/corona](http://www.stw-ma.de/corona)  [www.stw-ma.de/bafög](http://www.stw-ma.de/bafög)