

# 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 not 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, you 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 is changing for students who earn their income in institutions that support the fight against the coronavirus pandemic?**

In case a BAföG recipient earns an additional income or increases their working hours in essential industries and professions during the current funding period and if this activity serves to fight the coronavirus pandemic or its social impacts since 1 March 2020, this income is not considered as income within the meaning of the Federal Education and Training Assistance Act (BAföG), i.e. this income is not taken into account for the BAföG payments.

## 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)

