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EUROPAS SPITZE

The Magazine by

OH¹²FHBFI
Students' Union
of UAS BFI Vienna

Exams during Corona

Everything you need to know.

Page 6

Table of contents

- 3 Preface of the chairman**
- 4 Introduction student's union**
- 5 Work-Life Balance during COVID**
- 6 Exams during Corona**
- 8 Corona and Erasmus**
- 9 Student's union services**
- 10 Introduction student's union**
- 11 Competition**

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Editorial



Aisha Gstöttner

ÖH Office

Dear Students!

I am very pleased to present to you our second edition of "Europas Spitze". We want to give all of you an insightful look into topics that can be a heavy burden to every student during the Covid-19 pandemic.

From baking banana bread to an exciting competition, we want to bring some joy into your home-offices. Additionally, we will present to you the students union (ÖH) and all the people working and involved with us, as well as teaching our fellow students the various rights they have regarding their university! Moreover we will discuss the pandemic and its influence on studying abroad.

Personally, I hope you like this edition and will be excited for more to come! We at the ÖH are also always open for your feedback and thoughts, feel free to share them with us! Are you interested to work with us on the next issue and write your own article, which will be published?

Please contact us via office. oeh@fh-vie.ac.at. I am looking forward to meeting you!

Aisha Gstöttner



Preface of the chairman

A few words regarding the summer semester.

Dear colleagues, dear students!

It has been roughly a year since our everyday life at the university got radically switched upside down. It was Friday 13th actually, the 13th of March 2020, where we had to change to distance learning, fight against the uncertainty and scary aspects of the situation and still had to find time to engineer a whole new design for our study program.

The times of coffee breaks and friendly get-togethers were sadly over. Now we are entering the third semester since the pandemic hit. Everything is still different than before, but it has become our new normal. We, as the ÖH, were always and

still are first and foremost, interested in the well-being of the students. That is the part where you can help us – if you have any problems regarding your study, if something feels unfair or if you just need help or information, feel free to contact us at any time. The ÖHs job is to help students in any way possible with their problems during their study, especially during a pandemic! You can find all of our contact details on our website: www.oeh-fhbfi.at.

In addition, I would like to make a personal request: the Covid-19 pandemic is a troubling time for all of us, it is a psychological strain as well as a physical one. We are currently living through a time of not knowing what

is going to happen next. Hence, I am requesting all of you to stand united, be kind and look after one another. That is the only way we can get safely through these hard times.

Stay positive, test negative.



All the best,
Felix
Chairman

Introduction

Your ÖH introduces itself.



We are the **financial department Peter and Daniel**.

The job of the financial department (or “WiRef”) is to manage the administration of the funds, which are available to the ÖH of the FH of the BFI Vienna. The available funds are distributed by the financial department (budget planning). The control of the accounting and financial regulations as well as the appropriate use of funds are some of the main tasks of the economic department.

Every ÖH payment is reviewed and approved in the financial department. In addition, records of legal transactions are kept (accounting) and annual estimates and year-end accounts are made.

With best regards

Peter and Daniel
Financial Department



One of the most important tasks of the **sports department** is the coordination of all sports activities at the FH.

We support the students at the FH with sport equipment, location, organization and much more.

We also create additional regular, innovative and attractive events related to physical activity. These activities allow you to expand the horizon of what a specific sport is or can be.

Furthermore, sport helps to improve the quality of life and we would like to offer this to our students to our best capabilities.

With best regards,

Ali and Nico
Sports Department



Kind greetings from **Clemens and Aisha**! We are the **Office Team** of the ÖH FH BFI.

You can find us during our opening hours in our offices at the main and external location, where we are happy to help you with your questions.

We take care of everything administrative that arises in the everyday life of the ÖH. Under normal circumstances you are always welcome to drop by if you have any problems in your studies.

However, during the pandemic we are working from home, so feel free to write us an email to: office.oeh@fh-vie.ac.at

With best regards,

Clemens and Aisha
Office Team

Work-Life Balance during COVID-19

And why it's so important right now.

We all heard of it - the work-life balance. A needed balance between work and our private lives and its impact on our mental well-being.

However, it is precisely in times like these that one is faced with personal limits. Offices and universities are closed, people switch from work to personal laptops. The house is hardly ever left, the bedroom serves as the new conference room. It's been a long time since any of us took the time to dress up. Then, if the VPN fails, our world begins to crumble.

Our mental health is declining. An overcrowded psychiatric ward for the adolescent, rising suicide rates and lethargic people are the result.

There can hardly be any talk of work-life balance anymore. Sure, in times like these, good advice is hard to come by, but what is there to do when the world is caving in?

Despite all the sitting at home, there is something good about the pandemic after all. The shortened commute from our bedrooms to living rooms allows us to catch up on missed sleep.

Furthermore, one has the possibility to cook fresh during the lunch break or even go for a walk. Only a few have not tried baking banana bread. If you're really on the verge of desperation, you can at least still arrange study or work dates with a few friends.

Mom is happy as well, there's always time between meetings to do the laundry. However, if the bad feelings become unbearable, we have a solution: our in-house FH psychologist Angelika Groh will be happy to help you!

Contact Mag.a Angelika Groh!

E-mail: angelika.groh@fh-vie.ac.at

Tel: +43 1 720 12 86-13

For all those who need something to do during their lunch break, here is a recipe tip. **Banana bread** - who would have thought? At least something good came out of the pandemic.

3 ripe bananas
110g brown sugar
200g wheat flour
1 pinch of salt
1 pinch of cinnamon

80 ml neutral oil
2 eggs
3 TL baking powder
1 vanilla pod
Butter for the mould

Source: <https://www.einfachbacken.de/rezepte/bananenbrot>



With best regards,

**Heidi, Wilson
and Sarah
Social Department**



Exams during Corona

Everything you need to know.

A very relevant issue is the possibility of contesting a negative grade. In this regard, we as the Education Policy Unit offer advice. It is important to know that not only negative examinations before a committee, but also normal first and second attempts as well as the grading of Bachelor's and Master's theses can be contested. Well, what can you contest specifically? Basically, only formal errors. There is no contesting regarding incorrect grading possible, e.g. no „The exam was too difficult“ or „I feel I was graded unfairly“. This means that if the examina-

tion regulations were not followed, e.g. the examination modalities were changed within the last two weeks before the exam, then contesting is possible. Another case would be when an exam question does not fit the given study material. Since these are often unique problems, it is a good idea to look at the examination regulations by yourself first (you can find them on the website of the FH, in the area of „Hochschulkollegium“). If questions remain or your concerns about the approach of an exam, just write an email to the ÖH and we will take care of your

request.

If you send your concern to the ÖH, you have to provide a digital copy of the inspection, so that we can picture the individual situation. If you can't take an exam based on Covid-19 or other health-related reasons, please report this to the appropriate office so your right to attend the exam does not lapse. If the prevention is due to illness or an unavoidable business trip or something similarly serious, you do not lose the respective attempt. If you're not sure, please get in touch and we'll find a solution.

A tip for the online Pen & Paper exams is to download a program that allows you to create PDF's on your phone/tablet (for example Genius Scan). Be sure to try it out beforehand. There is nothing more annoying and stressful than facing technical challenges while uploading an exam. As there have been questions regarding the postponement of exams, we would like to make it clear that an exam date cannot be postponed so easily; this will only happen in an emergency and is also an incredibly bureaucratic act. There are always three different dates and three attempts for an exam. You have to partake in at least one sitting – two, in case you have to compete a second time – so you have to enter either the first or the second one. This means, when things get stressful, you can gain a little extra time, say, skipping the first exam and do your first attempt at the second exam. The third and final attempt, if one is required due to failing an exam twice, is in front of a committee and is arranged individually and independently of the three fixed exam dates. If you can't attend any of the three exams or had to skip one, but cannot take next the examination date, please clarify this with the course administration.

As written above, there can be serious reasons for this. In this case, a solution can be found. For support or questions you can also contact the ÖH. There is a lot of discourse in the media about the new HSG (Higher Education Act) - this will have no effect on us in our course of study. If you want crediting of ECTS or want to contest a grade, it is very important to meet certain deadlines.

For credits, the deadline is two weeks after the start of the course, and to contest a grade, two weeks after you receive the negative evaluation. Likewise, lecturers must upload marks for examinations no later than two weeks after the exam date. Concerning the change of the examination regulations it has to be said that there is still no software-supported monitoring via your cameras, e.g. an eye tracker during an exam or anything similar. We are currently testing the use of a program that allows us to monitor the students' laptops, e.g. what you are doing on the laptop during the exam.

Furthermore, it is not a change of modality if an exam changes from Pen & Paper to closed book on site, so here the 14 day change period does not apply. In addition, the possi-

bility of a closed book online examination was created. Since even the best internet connection and computers are not error free, please always read the handouts to technical errors before an exam. Most of the time, you have to make a screenshot of the problem, or the error message, and send it to your supervisor immediately.

Then it will be decided whether your sitting will be cancelled or if you may continue with the exam.



With best regards,

**Paul, Naida
and Edhem**
Education Policy Unit



Corona and Erasmus

How does that work?

Since the Corona outbreak in March 2020, we, the Erasmus Student Network of the BFI Vienna, had to change everything. Many of our exchange students flew home due to the Covid-19 regulations in the middle of the semester. Others stayed and were alone for months, but they at least could enjoy their last weeks in Vienna last summer.

As a student organisation we have been as considerate as possible to the restrictions. Just like anyone else, we also had to switch to online resources for meetings and events. For safety reasons, we cancelled our trips and planned events immediately. We informed our students always about new restrictions and met, at least in the summer, some

of our Incomings. For our members it was an unwanted change, but one we had to accept.


Our members are used to always being with people, organising events, traveling and having fun. We were hoping that we would be able to organize something for the new Erasmus students in the winter semester 2020. Unfortunately, we only had two months before another lockdown was announced.

Although we managed to organize as much as we could in these two months and were able to strengthen the Erasmus Spirit, it is a pity that the students did not get to enjoy a whole semester. But we have at least noticed that our Incomings - if possible – still tried to travel


(within Austria) and have fun.

We, the Erasmus Student Network of the BFI Vienna, will continue to help international students with their social and cultural integration. Additionally, we continue to try and give our students the best Erasmus-experience possible – with or without Covid-19.

Services offered by the ÖH




Events on site
(if possible)



Representation
of the interests
of students.




Free plagiarism-
checks




Support with
contesting a grade



Free women's hygiene
products on toilets



Advice to financial
support, subsidies and
higher education laws



Fast and efficient
networking in case
of problems

Introductions

Your ÖH introduces itself.



Hello! I am **Philipp**, 23 years old and I am studying Technical Sales Management in the 6th semester.

Since January 2019, I have been honoured to be the chairman of the **department for the external location** and dedicate myself to representing all students at the MQM. Since the most important voice, that of the people's concerns, unfortunately often goes unheard, it is very important to me to give our students active representation. Therefore, I have been following my passion, the work concerning representation, for several years now, and always put cooperation before confrontation.

With best regards,

Philipp & Rico
Dep. external location



Hallo! My name is **Stefan Pelzer** and I am studying at the FH of BFI AGHR in the fourth semester.

As part of the **department for event planning**, administrator Antonius Abd El Nour, BEWE 2nd semester, and I will organise interesting events for you.

Of course, the present circumstances make this a lot more difficult, as we cannot be sure of any coming restrictions in the long term.

However, we are already in the process of planning online events and we hope to be able to organise various events, such as wine spritzer booths, by the end of the semester.

With best regards

Stefan & Tony
Dep. event planning



Hello, we may introduce ourselves as the **public relations department**.

We are referee Ophelia Kohler, EWUF 4th semester, and administrator Patrick Redl, BAFI 6th semester. As the **public relations department**, we are responsible for communication between the ÖH and the students.

Through our social media channels, e.g. Instagram, or Info-Mails and this magazine, we try our best to keep you up to date about innovations at the FH as well as our services and offers. It is important to us that you receive all important information about your studies.

With best regards,

Ophelia & Patrick
PR Unit

Ambassador Buddies

Who we are and what we do.

Hello!

We're **Bea, Tobi and Hannah** and we're the Ambassador Buddies. With our activities we support the marketing team of the FH of the BFI Vienna and represent the FH at fairs and in schools.

If you have any questions about your dream-study or about everyday study life away from lecture halls and stressful exams, you can contact us via WhatsApp or Signal. At the moment, we are mostly active on Instagram. On our account @ambassadorbuddies we will accompany you through the everyday life of your studies, take you with us to (online) events, and keep you updated on the most important information as well as insights behind the scenes of the life at the FH. In between, we always have helpful tips & tricks and numerous prize drawings for you – and it has to be said: The highly coveted FH hoodie is a popular jackpot.

So **follow us on Instagram** or visit us on our Ask a Buddy webpage.

We are looking forward to meeting you!

Competition

It's that easy:

1. Follow @ambassadorbuddies and @oeh_fhbfiwien on Instagram.
2. Comment under this post on our Instagram page:



You can win an exclusive Home Office Package worth €300,- containing:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| - Samsung Monitor, curved | - Keyboard |
| - Mouse | - Bluetooth-Adapter |
| - Camera cover for the laptop | - Writing Pad, 2 Highlighters, Post-Its |
| - Powerbank | - FH Hoodie |

WIN A HOMEOFFICE PACKAGE WORTHS €300,-!!



OH FHBFI

Hörschülerinnen- & Hörschülerschaft der Fachhochschule des BFI Wien
Wohlmutterstraße 22, 1020 Wien, office.oeh@fh-vie.ac.at