Information for Students, Study Applicants, and Doctoral Students about the Execution of Oral Examinations via Video Conferences at KIT during the Corona Crisis

KIT makes every effort to minimize the disadvantages for you in spite of the ongoing Corona crisis. To the extent possible under the present circumstances, the Executive Board and KIT departments wish to help you by mitigating the impairments resulting from the suspension of academic education operations and the cancelation of examinations requiring personal attendance. For this reason, we are presently considering alternative and flexible forms of examinations, such as examinations with the help of video conferences.

For reasons of health and infection protection which is of paramount priority to KIT, it must and will have to be ensured that all persons involved in the examination procedure stay in separate rooms.

In addition, please note the information given below:

If you have questions regarding oral examinations via a video conference, contact your examiner/s responsible.

1. An examination via a video conference will be made on request of the examinee exclusively. This request has to be addressed to the examiner in writing (also by email). If the execution of an oral examination appears to be inappropriate for reasons of contents, technical aspects, didactic aspects or other matters (e.g. type of examination subject), no examination via a video conference will be organized.

In addition, the examinee has to provide credible evidence that a timely examination is indispensable and that non-execution of the examination would entail major drawbacks. The final decision on whether such an examination is carried out lies with the examiner.

2. Please note that unforeseeable imponderabilities may occur during this special examination situation, such as:*  
   - The technical systems may fail any time, which will cause and enhance negative emotions.
- Conversation may be interrupted, overlaps may occur.
- The frequency of non-verbal acts will increase (more dynamic process).
- Communication problems may occur, because e.g. the control of the right to speak is more difficult without direct eye contact, because of the general time delay (asynchronisms), and because the absence of usual signals (gestures) will lead to uncertainties.
- Action problems may occur, because there is no common physical and social context (e.g. welcome, guiding the attention by pointing to objects, verification of the place, general visibility of objects).
- Due to time differences alone, performance losses might occur.
- To ensure direct communication and interaction between the examinee and the examiner, a minimum time delay of transmission routes and a high data rate must be ensured. In particular, it must be guaranteed that the examinee can see all examiners at any time (not only the examiner who currently asks the questions) and that all examiners can see the examinee.

3. All persons involved in the examination, including the examinee, must agree in writing (also by email) after having been informed about potential drawbacks.

4. The examination may only take place by video transmission in order to ensure that examiners, associates, and the examinee can see and hear each other at any time. In particular, it must be ensured that the examinee can always see all examiners (not only the examiner who currently asks the questions) and that all examiners can see the examinee.

5. The equipment of the examination room, in particular of the room in which the examinee is located, must be suited for the purpose of an examination.

6. As usual, minutes of the examination are taken (no electronic recording of the examination).

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