

Regulations for GSLS public defenses

COVID-19-related rules for GSLS public defenses

Effective from: **25th April, 2022**

As informed by the COVID-19 Task Force of the University on 21st April, based on the new 16th Bavarian Infection Protection Measures Ordinance (BayIfSMV), which has been in force in the Free State since 3rd April, the University has adapted its infection protection concept. You can find this concept at <https://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/corona/formulare>.

Above all, the G access conditions to University buildings have been dropped. A check of corresponding vaccination, recovery and test certificates no longer takes place. Furthermore, contact data collection is discontinued.

However, the obligation to wear a medical face mask continues to apply on meeting and circulation areas in buildings and closed rooms of the university, unless a minimum distance of 1.5 m to other persons can be safely maintained.

The following COVID-19-related rules for GSLS public defenses are effective immediately:

- In public defenses, the participants may be present on site. There are no COVID-related restrictions to the number of persons attending the defense.
- Wearing of a FFP2 mask/medical face mask during the defense is only obligatory if the minimum distance of 1.5 m cannot be maintained.
- Examiners may take off their masks when asking a question (in case a 1.5 m distance cannot be maintained).
- Generally, the doctoral candidate defending does not have to wear a mask

Format and organization of the public defense

- Generally, we request that the doctoral candidate defending, the thesis committee, as well as the chairperson shall attend the public defense in person. Exceptions apply if e.g. a thesis committee member is from abroad or if there is another justified reason which does not enable their personal participation. Don't forget to assign a minute taker for the defense. The minute taker must be graduated and should be nominated by the first supervisor of the doctoral candidate.
- In addition to the pure "on site" format, public defenses may be held in a hybrid format (see below for details) in order to increase the opportunity to attend for the public.
- Of course, you are welcome to continue to use the lecture hall in the GSLS building for public defenses (on site or hybrid format). The room has a capacity from 25 persons (if the 1.5 m distance is kept) up to approximately 40 persons. Please contact us as early as possible if you would like to book the GSLS Lecture Hall.
- The defense consists of a presentation of approx. 25 to 30 minutes followed by a Q&A session. If you prepare your presentation using a MAC you should test whether the presentation is running with WINDOWS Powerpoint. Just to be sure you should bring to your defense:
 - your MAC including charging cable

- your own HDMI adaptor
- ensure that you can connect to the WLAN (Bayern WLAN or Eduram); you may also bring your own LAN adaptor

Hybrid defenses

- The GSLS Lecture Hall is well-equipped for hybrid defenses and the GSLS will provide IT support in that case.
- Alternatively, a defense in a hybrid format may be organized internally by the respective institute/chair in a local seminar room without direct organizational involvement of the GSLS. Please ensure local IT support in this case. A GSLS office member or student assistant will attend the defense as well.

Organization of hybrid defenses

- Zoom link: The Zoom link may be generated by a member of the Institute/Chair of the doctoral candidate. Alternatively, the GSLS office may generate the link.
- The invitation for the defense will be sent out 7 days prior to the defense date.
- A registration link (NOT the Zoom link) will be included in the public invitation. Persons who would like to attend the defense via Zoom have to register. The Zoom link will be sent to registered persons 1 day and, for late registrations, around one 1 hour prior to the defense by a member of the GSLS office or a student assistant.
- The chairperson and the members of the thesis committee receive a personal invitation. In case one of them plans to attend the defense via Zoom, they will directly receive the Zoom link together with the personal invitation.
- In order to ensure a smooth procedure, please let us know the following details:
 - Does a member of the thesis committee or the chairperson attend via Zoom?
 - Name and email of the minute taker and whether he/she will attend by Zoom

Am I allowed to have a reception (“Sektempfang”) after my defense?

As informed by the COVID-19 Task Force of the University on 21st April 2022, the obligation to wear an FFP2 mask/medical face mask in university buildings continues to exist.

However, the obligation to wear a mask does not apply at fixed seats and standing places, provided that a minimum distance of 1.5 m to other persons is reliably maintained.

Thus, a reception is possible, but please keep the rules!

If you use the GSLS kitchen, please clean up afterwards! Thank you. 😊

We wish you all the best for your defense!

Your GSLS Team