

Message dated March 11, 2020 from Florian Becker, Managing Director, Bard College Berlin

Dear Bard College Berlin Community,

Today, the Berlin Mayor's Office directed Bard College Berlin to move to online instruction starting Monday, March 16, 2020. As you may have seen in the news, the Mayor's Office also issued a directive to all other universities in the city.

The college is committed to enabling all students to complete all coursework for the semester and to receive full academic credit. To this end, all faculty members have worked out study plans for the remainder of the semester. These will be communicated to you by your instructors in the coming days.

We will follow the published academic calendar; there will be no instruction during Spring Break (April 4-13). Arrangements will be made for Moderations and thesis presentations. All campus services (cafeteria, library, on-campus residence halls) will continue to operate normally. On-campus students are welcome to remain in residence. On-campus students who wish to depart from campus may do so starting this weekend. Further instructions about check-out procedures will be forthcoming tomorrow.

Student health and safety remains our highest priority. All community members who remain on campus will be notified as soon as there is any change that merits further adjustment. For now, there have been no such changes. The two students who were tested for coronavirus (and who tested negative) remain symptom-free and have been cleared by the health department (Gesundheitsamt Pankow) to leave their current isolation on Saturday, March 15, 2020.

We continue to ask members of the community who stay in Berlin to report any illness or possible exposure to coronavirus to Brian Gallagher (b.gallagher@berlin.bard.edu).

We believe, at this point, that our Commencement ceremony will not take place this May. The Berlin government has banned events of 1,000 participants or more until further notice. This year's Commencement may have to be rescheduled or amalgamated with the 2021 ceremony. However, we will continue to monitor the situation. If there is a marked improvement that would allow safe festivities, we will reconsider.

The Student Life and Civic Engagement offices as well as other departments across campus will continue to offer programming for students around the world.

I would like to thank all students, faculty members and staff for your help in this challenging situation and to ask for your understanding. If you have further questions, please contact Brian Gallagher.