

Dear students, dear members of Bard College Berlin,

As you have most likely seen in the news, Germany is entering a one-month limited "circuit breaker" lockdown on Sunday, November 1. In addition, and as you may have heard from your representatives in the student parliament, the government ("Senat") of Berlin has set out an updated version of the Infection Protection Ordinance, which will be published tomorrow. In this context, all (public and non-public) universities, including Bard College Berlin, have been instructed by the Senate to conduct the majority of their teaching online for a limited period, beginning on Monday. Exceptions are permitted principally "where digital formats are not possible," notably in the practicing arts.

The university leadership is and will continue to be in dialogue with the authorities to clarify matters, especially regarding the extent of permissible exceptions and the exact duration of the measure. We will present a strong case for the importance and continued safety of in-person instruction at Bard College Berlin. We are glad to have the support of the student parliament for doing so.

In the meantime, however, we have to follow the instruction to transfer online all classes with the exception of practicing arts courses and other courses with laboratory or practical components that depend on in-person presence.

Please note that your weekly class schedule will not change. Your presence in Berlin (and for on-campus residents, at the college) remains mandatory. Many students will still have courses or class sessions that require their presence or will need to use college facilities; a return to further in-person instruction may become possible (and thus mandatory) at short notice; and according to lockdown regulations any non-essential travel has to be avoided.

Please look for email messages this weekend from your professors with updated details about the format of their classes, along with any other revised expectations. In-person advising meetings continue to be possible provided social distancing regulations are followed. The registrar will send out an updated schedule for faculty office hours as soon as possible next week.

Facilities such as the Factory, cafeteria, library, computer lab and AV room will remain open. We ask everyone to review the [Special Policies and Procedures](#) as these remain in effect and are more important now than ever.

Thank you for helping to keep us safe so far.

Best wishes,

Florian Becker

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Florian Becker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'F'.