

We students strongly advocate for the preservation of the third Examination Phase

The third examination phase prevents us from having to study longer in cases of illness and other unforeseeable strokes of fate. Viewed over a period of 3.5 years, this happens to many people. The possibility also in the case of a feeling of overload or too much stress, to postpone an exam into the September phase, relieves both psychologically as well as physically. Psychologically, because it seems more feasible and the pressure and fear of failure decrease. For someone who finances one's studies through BAföG, the fear of exceeding the standard period of study can evolve into existential fears, since it is unclear how everything is to be financed if the standard study is exceeded. But even within the standard period of study, students must provide proof of the ECTS they have achieved after the 4th semester in order to continue to receive BAföG. This would also be made more difficult if students do not have an alternative phase. Physically, as stress also has physical effects in the long term, which are already evident in many students (tendinitis, migraines, sleep disorders, etc.). This could also result in an increase in the number of students seeking help from trusted professors and psychological counseling.

In the event of illness, students would also have to take the examinations they have missed during a phase that is already full of examinations. This increases the psychological pressure and is likely to result in a poorer overall performance in the examinations. It is not uncommon for students who have broken their hand, for example, or who have tendinitis for example, are unable to take notes for the entire exam period. Students should not be expected to complete twice the number of examinations in one semester. Such constellations would probably also pose new challenges for those planning the examinations. Up to now, compensation for disadvantages has only applied to chronic illnesses. Should the third phase for evasion should be dropped, such regulations should also be reconsidered for the above-mentioned reasons.

The abolition of the third examination phase could also have an impact on the social and university-political activities of students, since those who are very active have less time for exam preparation and are happy to switch to the third phase. The willingness to engage would potentially decrease as a result. This would have an impact on the university and on the development of the students, since many grow from these experiences. It is also imperative to consider the fact that we have a fixed semester abroad or an Internship semester at HSRW. It is well known that students who go on a semester abroad often miss the exam period in the winter semester. For those who also do not manage to attend the summer semester examination phase, the omission of the September phase would be fatal, since the registration of the bachelor thesis is linked to the completion of the courses and is thus postponed by one semester. Students should not be penalized for going abroad in the 6th semester, which is a fixed part of the study.

Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences is a family-friendly university. Especially mothers and fathers and students who take care of relatives are already in a difficult situation. The third examination phase also helps them and thus makes the university more family friendly.

The external impact of the HSRW should also be considered. The abolition of the third examination phase and the more difficult situation for students could ensure that ambitious students in particular are more likely to opt for other universities. The number of students who complete their studies in the standard period of study or in the standard period of study + 2

semesters would probably decrease. To add another argument against the abolition of the third examination phase, which is not only the well-being of the students, which should already have a sufficiently large importance at a university: The numbers of students who graduate in the standard period of study or the standard period of study + 2 semesters, are, after all, also quite relevant key figures for the university, since the distribution of funds is often based on these figures. Whether the omission of the additional workload caused by the third examination phase is worthwhile is, in our opinion, highly questionable, if the resulting problems are considered as a whole.

We students therefore strongly advocate that the third examination phase is to be retained.