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## **MIBAS: Welcome to the Summer Term 2020**

My dear MIBAS students,

I really do hope that this letter finds you in good health, good spirit and that you and your families are well in these unprecedented times.

Who would have thought how the world looks today just two months ago? We see the shut-down of schools and universities, the closing of shops, restaurants, theaters, sports clubs and many other amenities that make our life worthwhile. We witness the closing of borders and the imposition of travel restrictions that most probably affect many of you, particularly those with families and friends abroad. I find it hard to image what some of you might be going through in the last months. Me and my team were also traveling beginning of March and we met a couple of MIBAS students at airports traveling to or coming back home from family visits; all, just like us, were insecure what will happen and what lies ahead. I do hope that most of you have managed to be at a place that is home or at least feels a bit like home.

We all suffer from physical distancing, but let's not make this a case of social distancing. The MIBAS community of students has always impressed me with their sense of belongingness, the spirit of being part of a larger family and the supportive attitude that makes you look out for each other. This is even more important in these days. So keep in touch with each other, share information, meet for socials on zoom and share a coffee, all this is important to help us getting over the coming weeks.

Apart from this many of you might feel insecure how the coming semester will look like and how the closing of the university affects your studies. Hence, I wanted to also take this opportunity to update you on recent developments.

The good news first: The Summer Term starts on April, 20 as a virtual summer term (for the time being). Thanks to my very engaged colleagues, I can ensure you already that ALL planned

lectures and seminars which have been scheduled for the summer term WILL TAKE place. All of them will start as virtual courses but you will be able to take part and also clear your ECTS credits. As this is uncharted territory for many of us, the virtual classes will most probably not deliver the same experience as the real ones. And it is for sure that we will experience some technological hick-ups and that not everything will run as smoothly as you are used to. But I can ensure you that all lecturers are motivated to make this a success and to get the classes/seminars up and running. Many of the lectures will be delivered asynchronously, with voice-over slides, reading materials etc. to make it accessible to you at the time of your convenience. We will most probably see people experimenting with other formats as well, so this will also be an exciting experience.

You will find all important information on the classes on STINE. In addition the team in the Studienbüro, Ms. Kramer and Mr. Schröder, who currently replace Ms. Tacke who is on sabbatical, will be there to help you out. Please bear in mind that we are currently also busy with administering the applications of the new MIBAS generation in the coming weeks. We will most probably not have an answer to all of your questions at this stage; the situation is dynamically evolving and we make decisions once we know. The President of the University also has expressed that for those students who will find it difficult to study under these circumstances for whatever reason, there will be no disadvantages of any kind. You will find most up to date information on the Corona FAQ website of the University which you should consult on a regular basis. (<https://www.uni-hamburg.de/en/newsroom/intern/2020/0131-corona-faq.html>)

I hope that this information will help you in planning next steps ahead and will also take away some of your worries and concerns. As you know I am there to support if you have questions or concerns. The summer term will be different than any other term. We will not see each other physically, and there will most probably be no MIBAS summer party as we know it. But I can assure you: once this is over we will be even stronger as a community, we will celebrate a good party and appreciate life even more.

With all my best wishes,

Yours



Daniel Geiger

MIBAS Program Director

Univ.- Prof. Dr. Daniel Geiger