



Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg, 53754 Sankt Augustin

To all
Colleagues and Students
of Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg

Grantham-Allee 20
53757 Sankt Augustin
Tel. +49 2241 865 601
praesident@h-brs.de
www.h-brs.de

Sankt Augustin, 26 July 2021

Dear colleagues,
Dear students,

In the past few days, we have experienced a storm disaster that has hit our region on a hitherto unknown scale. The high number of fatalities, the images of destruction, the eyewitness reports – we perceive all this with horror every day. We are, however, still far from grasping the full extent of this catastrophe.

Many of you, your families and friends have been personally affected by the flood. We know of considerable damage to property, but we also know of existential hardship due to the devastating storm.

Our thoughts are with you!

None of you should suffer any professional or study-related disadvantages at the university as a result of the storm. I am committed to this. The Hochschule Bonn-Rhein-Sieg will support you in your job or studies wherever it can. We have already issued some regulations to take account of the difficult situation – for example, with regard to ongoing examinations or with regard to time off work for employees in certain cases.

Unfortunately, the university itself was not spared from the storm. The campus in Rheinbach was completely flooded by water, as a result of which, among other things, all central supply facilities in the basements – from building services to IT – suffered total damage. We are recording the damage and are in contact with the NRW Ministry of Science. According to initial conservative estimates, the total damage is around 50 million euros. We have been told that no other university in North Rhine-Westphalia was hit so hard by the storm.

We are working intensively to repair the damage so that normal operations can resume at the Rheinbach campus. This, however, will take several months. We will do everything we can to continue to offer the usual quality of study programmes. Despite all adversities, the departments on Rheinbach campus are highly motivated to ensure a successful start for all freshers in the winter semester 2021/22 and to guarantee

successful studies for all students. We are benefiting here from the experience in online teaching that we have been able to gain through the Corona pandemic.

We are also trying to find ways for doctoral students who have been set back in their work by the flood damage.

What gives us courage these days? For example, there was an encounter the morning after the storm at the flooded campus in Rheinbach: I got to talk to students there who asked many questions and were worried. They did not complain, however, but offered their support right away – as multipliers, informing their fellow students about the situation. They proactively took responsibility at that moment, which impressed me.

I am encouraged above all by the energy, the constructive approach, the moving forward. All of this characterises our crisis management in these days, in the administration as well as in the departments and in the central facilities of the university. The solidarity we are experiencing in the region is also beneficial and strengthening, especially from the University of Bonn, the Alanus University of Applied Sciences and other universities and institutions that have signalled their support.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who are working tirelessly these days and who are committed to the university. I am sure that together and in partnership we will manage to overcome this difficult situation.

We will of course keep you informed about further developments. Please refer to the information and contact persons on our website <https://www.h-brs.de/flooding>. There you will also find information on relief organisations and fundraising campaigns.

Kind regards



Prof. Dr. Hartmut Ihne
President