



## Answers to questions frequently asked of the social and legal counselling teams of the Studentenwerk Würzburg

Last updated: 11 May 2021

See below for answers to questions frequently asked by students.

### Question 1:

**In the current situation, am I entitled to ALG II unemployment benefits if I lose my job/don't get paid?**

#### Answer:

No, in normal circumstances, you are not entitled to ALG II unemployment benefits. Full time students are usually not entitled to benefits under the *Sozialgesetzbuch II* (social code, book II; SGB II).

There are very few exceptions to this rule, for example:

- Students who are on leave of absence because they are pregnant, are caring for children or have a medical condition.
- Students who are studying part time because they are pregnant, are caring for children or have a medical condition/health impairment. If this applies to you, be aware that there are some other conditions that you must meet as well.
- Students who are in a situation that is considered “undue hardship”, e.g. students in advanced stages of their degrees who lose their sources of funding for their university education due to circumstances beyond their control may be eligible for a loan in accordance with the provisions of Section 27 (3) SGB II. The competent Jobcentre will be responsible for verifying their eligibility for such a loan.
- Students who are entitled to increased benefits under Section 21 SGB II, e.g. student parents or students with disabilities.



**Question 2:**

**In the current situation, am I entitled to a rent subsidy (*Wohngeld*) if I lose my job/don't get paid?**

**Answer:**

Not automatically. The rule that you can only receive a rent subsidy if you are not entitled to financial assistance under the BAföG Act and that you must demonstrate that you are able to cover your monthly living expenses still applies. In short: The normal conditions for entitlement to a rent subsidy still apply.

**Question 3:**

**As a student, am I entitled to reduced hours compensation benefits (*Kurzarbeitergeld*)?**

**Answer:**

Students, who usually work less than 20 hours a week, are not entitled to reduced hours compensation benefits.

**Question 4:**

**The money from my side job was supposed to pay for my university education. My parents can't support me financially. How do I pay my bills?**

**Answer:**

You may be eligible for a BAföG grant or a *Studienabschlussdarlehen* loan. In addition, you could ask your creditors to allow you to pay in instalments or to give you more time to pay the money you owe them. Please contact the team at the social counselling service of the Studentenwerk Würzburg. They will help you find the solution that works best for you.

You may also be eligible for interim financial aid (*Überbrückungshilfe*) for students facing financial difficulties as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The reasons for your financial difficulties must have come into being in the month in which you are filing your application for the interim financial aid (on the day before the date of your application or earlier) or in the two months before the month in which you are filing your application. If you lost your side job because of the pandemic earlier than that, you will have to demonstrate that you are currently making efforts to improve your financial situation. [www.ueberbrueckungshilfe-studierende.de](http://www.ueberbrueckungshilfe-studierende.de)

**Question 5:**

**What else can I do if I can't pay my health insurance contributions, rent, phone bill etc. in the current situation?**

**Answer:**

Contact your health insurance provider, landlord, phone company etc. and ask them



to give you more time to pay the money you owe them and to not chase you for payment. You could also ask your creditors if you could pay part of the money you owe them now and pay the rest later.

**Question 6:**

I have lost my job. Where can I look for a new one?

**Answer:**

Businesses in the following sectors have an increased need for staff in the current situation. Contact them and ask them for a job:

- Food delivery services
- Supermarkets, grocery stores
- Logistics, warehousing, parcel services
- Cleaning companies
- Petrol stations

Aschaffenburg: <https://jobs.main-echo.de/>  
 Bamberg: <https://feki.de/jobboerse>  
 Schweinfurt: <https://www.jobs-für-schweinfurt.de/>  
 Würzburg: <https://www.wuewowas.de/>

**Question 7:**

**Are my parents allowed to stop or reduce their support payments because my university has suspended courses and this may lead to me completing my degree later than planned?**

**Answer:**

No, they are not. You are still entitled to support payments from your parent(s). If your parent(s) is/are unable to make those payments in the current situation, e.g. because they are unemployed or working reduced hours, you may be eligible for a BAföG grant.

**Question 8:**

**I was going to start a job in the current semester. I had reached a verbal agreement with an employer, and that employer has a personnel record card on file for me already. However, I have not signed an employment contract yet.**

**Answer:**

Employment contracts can be made verbally. However, this often leads to problems when there are disagreements or you need evidence of something that you and your employer have agreed upon. Fixed-term contracts must be in writing in order to become effective.

**Question 9:**

**My employer dismissed me during my probation period and did not give any reasons. Do I have any claims against my employer or am I entitled to unemployment benefits?**

**Answer:**

During an agreed probation period, employers can dismiss employees with 2 weeks' notice without giving reasons. In that case, students are not entitled to ALG I or ALG II unemployment benefits.

**If you have any questions, please contact the social counselling team of the Studentenwerk Würzburg.**

Our contact details can be found at: <https://www.studentenwerk-wuerzburg.de/en/consultancy/social-counselling.html>

**Question 10:**

**I am being accused of having repeatedly violated mask policies although I was stopped only one time for not wearing a mask in a place where wearing a mask is mandatory. What can I do? Also, I'm finding it difficult to keep track of where masks must be worn.**

**Answer:**

You will be given the opportunity to make a statement in which you explain what has happened from your point of view and explain why you think that there is a misunderstanding.

Always remember that you have a responsibility to keep up to date on the rules that are in place where you live and study. Those rules can be found on the web pages of the cities or districts in question.

**If you need legal advice, phone our legal counselling team to arrange for an appointment:**

Phone hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, Thu 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Phone: +49 931 8005-501

**More information about studying during the coronavirus crisis:**

<https://www.studis-online.de/Studieren/corona.php> (available in German only)